EERIE #122

A WARREN MAGAZINE

JULY 1981

EERIE

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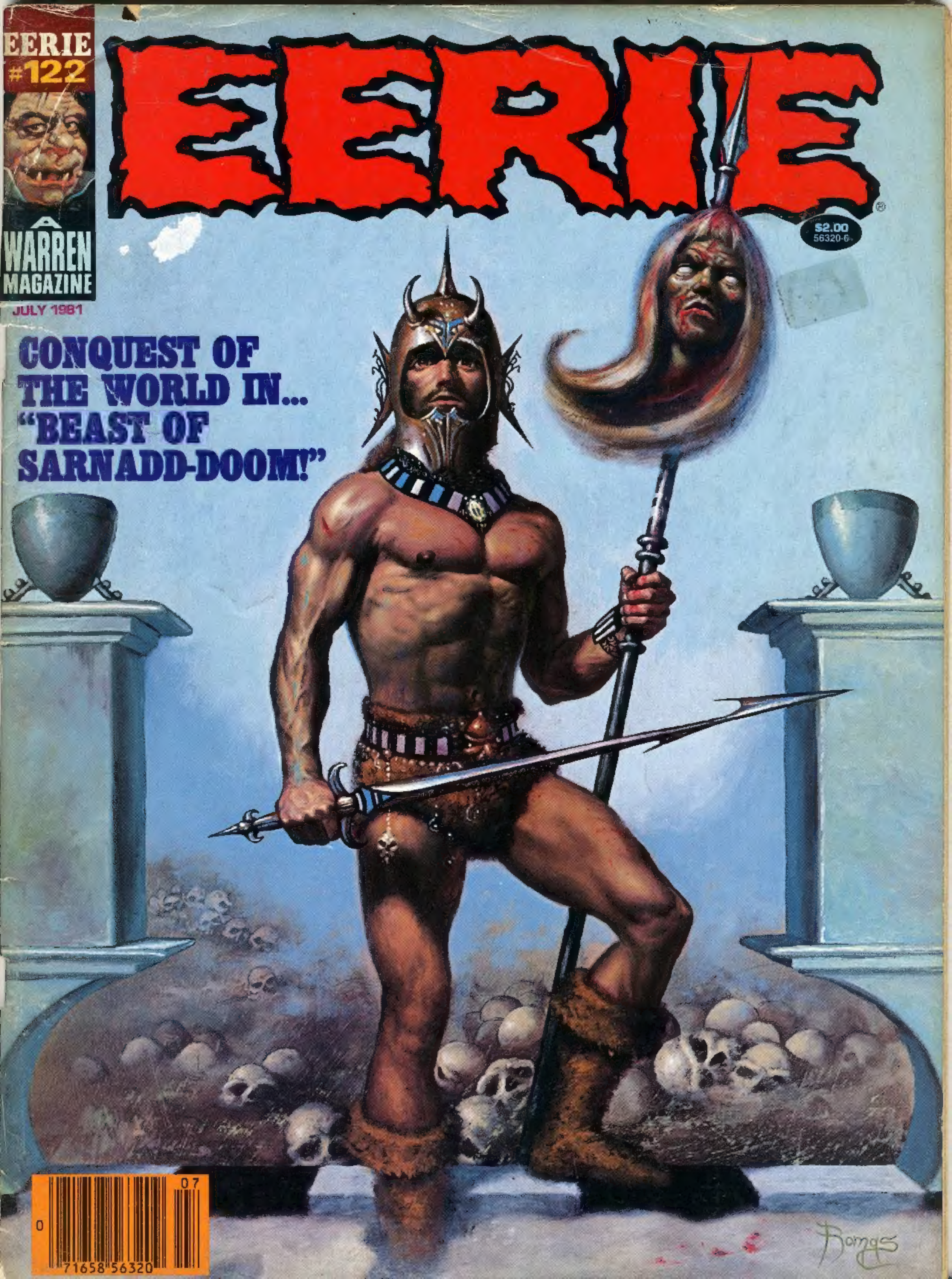
CONQUEST OF THE WORLD IN... "BEAST OF SARNADD-DOOM!"



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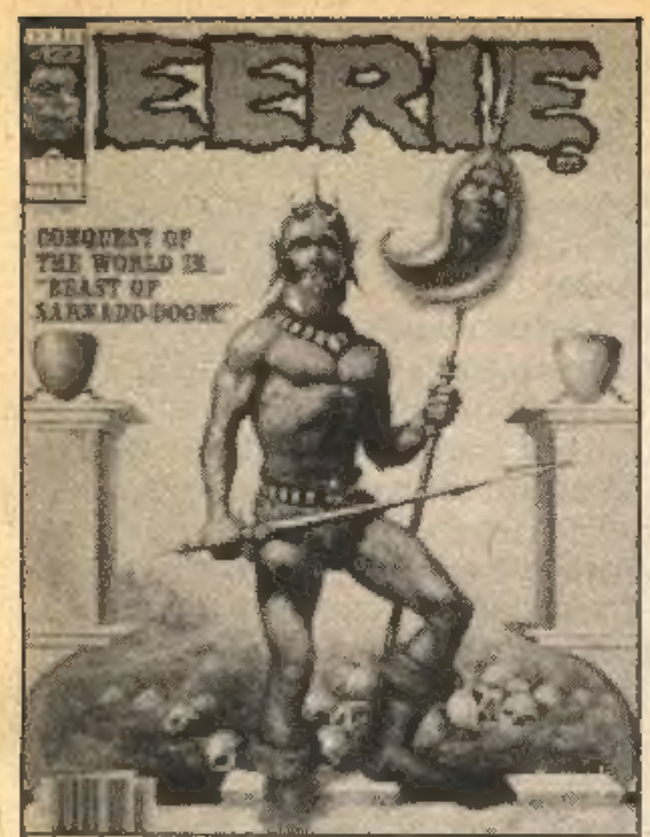

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THE BEAST 5

Beyond the edge of the world, in the misty realm where legend began, stood the ancient city of Sarnadd-Doom! Here is where the barbarian hordes all came. Here is where their chieftains came to prove their manhood and here is where the opulent old city, ancient beyond the dreams of man, administered its tests and meted out its own brand of justice! What had the barbarian chieftain come all that way for... a rebirth or the horrible death he deserved?

ZUD KAMISH 17

The adventurer to the stars stands in a quandary! Zud's best buddy and old comrad in arms has been murdered, the list of suspects is limited to Zud's closest friends and the Deep Space Desperadoes are moving in for the criminial coup of the century as they try to turn the Far Flung into a privately owned crime preserve! To make matters worse, the Hero of the Milky Way is trussed, gagged and being prepared for death in an old warehouse!

THE MIST 27

Victoria rode the subways every day on her way home from Manhattan to Brooklyn. But, tonight things were going to be different. Lucifer de Montalban has his Voodoo followers out after Victoria. They are going to reincarnate Auguste, the Voodoo Queen by using Victoria as a lightning rod for her spirit. The CIA is following Montalban because he is, at the least, an undesirable alien. The clash between two secret forces is about to begin!

HAGGARTH 41

Haggarth, caught between the warring sides of his bi-psychic nature, feels compelled to journey into the fevered land of dreams to reap the revenge he so deeply desires! Somewhere in the forbidding mountains ahead of him stands the monument to his quest for truth and justice. Somewhere, there has to be an answer to the problem that has been plaguing him on his quest. Somewhen, somehow, he must awaken from this horrible dream!

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DEAR COUSIN EERIE

Victor de la Fuente is winning me over. I did not like "Haxtur" at all, and when I saw the first installment of "Haggarth" I almost **gagged**! More wasted space and more of my money wasted for another issue, I thought. I've always enjoyed **Fuente's** artwork; he has no equal in that department. But now I am coming to admire the **grisly** cleverness of his basic premise (the identity transfer) and I am coming not to mind so much the talkiness of his scripts. Where these primitives get all these words I'll never know, but his action sequences, as always, are **thrilling**!

WILLIAM BADER
Moline, Ill.

"Zud Kamish" is fast developing from low-grade space opera to medium-grade melodrama. That's a **compliment**! Good **hokum** is hard to find. I'll miss old Moa-loved that protruding jawline!

"The Mist" may be a fine series if it overcomes **Jun Lofamia's** ink splatterings.

"Haggarth" is much more carefully plotted than "Haxtur" was. Although "Haxtur" was an episode or two too long, it had an interesting premise. So far, "Haggarth" has yet to develop any depth, but the scripting is tighter and the artwork is first-rate, as **de la Fuente's** past work has led us to expect.

No offense to anyone intended, but I really believe that both **EERIE** and **CREEPY** are too dependent on **foreign** artists. Not that they're not good. It is ony that there seems to be a distance between American writers and overseas illustrators.

GARY D. GOODMAN
Hardinsburg, Kentucky

EERIE #120 was a very satisfying comic-reading experience for me. "The Gunfighter and the Warrior," "Zud Kamish," and "Haggarth" were all fine stories. But "The Mist" just doesn't cut the mustard. Also, what's **THE ROOK** doing in **EERIE** magazines? He's got his own magazine, keep him there! I'm also wondering why "Sindy Starfire" was continued in **1994**.

JONNY WHITE
Bondurant, Iowa

Jonny, Sindy was not continued in 1994. That was another character with nearly the same name! That Sindy was really Steamer Starfire, heroine of the galactic frontier!

EERIE #120 was one of the best issues to see print from **Warren Publishing** in a long time. Most of the stories **great**, as was the cover! **Jim Laurier's** work is fabulous, brilliant! Now that **Corben** is gone, **Laurier** has become my favorite cover artist.

Part two of "Zud Kamish," "Death of a Cometeer" by **Jim Stenstrum**, was once again very enjoyable. I don't usually like science fiction type heroes (I **hated** Mac Tavish, but this guy, surrounded by that bizarre assortment of characters, is really wonderful! It's all due to **Jim Stenstrum**. **E.R. Cruz'** art is merely adequate.

"The Gunfighter and The Warrior" really **stunk**! **Rich** (Ech!!) **Margopoulos** has done it again! Imagine trying to condense a plot like this into a mere fourteen pages. The characters zipped from place to place without explanation, seemingly motivated only by the coming of the end of the story. I was never very fond of **Margopoulos**, and now he's a regular! Also, what has happened to **A.L. Sanchez**? His artwork can be stunning. Here, it looked like he was rushing to finish. But who can blame him? Give him a good story to work with for a change!

Don McGregor's "The Mist" was unquestionably the best story in the issue. When Lucifer started crying, I was really shocked! It's not easy to surprise a **die-hard** comic fan.

Victor de la Fuente's "Haggarth" has got to be the best **EERIE** series in years! The story, the art, everything is **superb**! I never thought I would be looking forward to such a series from issue to issue, because I generally dislike barbarians (Northampton is **lousy** with 'em).

By the way, when do you think we'll see a color section again? I long for the old days.

CHRIS O'CONNEL
Northampton, Ma.

Dear Cousin Eerie,
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

EERIE #120 was quite a mixed bag! We had humorous science fiction, a crotchety time traveler, a rather dubious supernatural tale, and the distinctive work of **Victor de la Fuente**.

Jim Stenstrum's script of "Death of a Cometeer", the second installment of "Zud Kamish," shows a quality that has been sadly lacking in most **Warren** stories, namely **humor**. Yet he can still maintain a fairly suspenseful and involving plotline. **E.R. Cruz'** work here is very clear and appropriate!

As for "Bishop Dane and Dax the Warrior", I find myself asking why the old man continues to appear in **EERIE** when he is a regular in **THE ROOK**, especially since his is a rather tiresome character whose chief function seems to be to get **Reston Dane** in trouble.

The question that comes to mind in reading "A Public and Private Surveillance" is whether or not "The Mist" is intended to be the start of a new series. If so, how long will it be before writer **Don McGregor** clarifies the situation for us confused readers?

Lastly, we have "Sombra the Damned", the current installment of **de la Fuente's** "Haggarth" series. While I was happy to see a fifteen page segment rather than the shorter lengths of the "Haxtur" series, I find myself thinking that this series also shows the danger signs of descending into the **pseudo-metaphysical murk** that mired the aforementioned "Haxtur."

T.M. MAPLE
Toronto, Ontario

EERIE #120 was a **kicker**, the best issue **Warren Publishing** has ground out in some time! The only toilet stuffer was "The Mist," but why complain?

Well, I'll complain! Comic books are not suited to following the domestic travails of a young couple and their child. Leave domesticity to the theater or TV. Comics should give us heavy doses of fantasy. "The Mist" featured a wonderful splash with demons and wraiths swirling about behind the main action! This promised us sorcery which never came. Divorce them! Move them! Hit Lucifer with a truck! **End** "The Mist!"

"Zud Kamish" on the other hand, was great! May he last forever, along with **Jim Stenstrum** too! "Zud" was filled with vivid characters, constant action, turnaround surprises, and good humor. **Warren Publishing** is to be congratulated on this package. **E.R. Cruz'** unspectacular style is perfect for this series.

Jim Laurier's cover made #120 a collector's item in its own time. Thank you for such an outstanding issue!

ELIZABETH BROOME
Brooklyn, New York

THE BEAST OF SARNADD-DOOM!

IT WAS A TIME DEVOID OF CONCEPTS SUCH AS ***GOOD*** AND ***EVIL!*** EVERY ***THING*** AND EVERY ***ONE*** WAS ***EVIL***, IF EVIL MEANS ***STRANGE***, ***PARASITIC*** AND ***CARNIVOROUS!*** BUT THAT WAS THE WAY THINGS WERE!

TO SAY THAT ***HE*** WAS AN ***EVIL*** MAN, WAS TO SAY NO MORE THAN HE WAS A ***PART*** OF THE WAY THINGS ***WERE.*** AND HE WAS ***DEADLY!***

Author:**BUDD LEWIS**/Illustrator:**GONZALO MAYO**

DEADLY, IN THOSE TIMES, MEANT POWER. HIS NAME WAS BEHK-BEGAHN AND HE WAS POWERFUL! AND POWER, BEING THE HANDMAIDEN OF GREED, HE WANTED!

AND, IN WANTING, HE TOOK!
AND TOOK, UNTIL HE HAD TO SEARCH FOR SOMETHING MORE TO TAKE!

UNTIL HIS ARMIES STOOD PERCHED UPON THE MISTY BRINK WHERE THE WORLD ENDED AND MYTH BEGAN! AND STILL HIS HUNGRY EYES GAZED ONWARD, HIS STOMACH GROWLING AND HIS SOUL EMPTY!

TELL ME, GATE WARDEN! IS THE REALM OF SARNADD-DOOM A PLACE OF GOOD OR OF EVIL?

THE *EARTH* THUNDERED AND SHUDDERED AS HIS *PASSION* SWEPT THE WORLD AND HIS *DESIRE* WAS SLAKED IN THE *BLOOD* OF THE *VANQUISH-ED!* HIS HEART *BOILED* WITH EMPASSIONED *LIFE* ONLY WHEN IMMERSED IN THE FIRES OF PILLAGE, PLUNDER AND CARNAGE!

AND, *STILL* BEHK-BEGAHN TOOK!

BEYOND THE EDGE, DEEP IN THE REALM OF *MYTH,* WAS A FEAR-FABLED CITY, A NIGHT-GAUNT PLACE KNOWN BEST IN DARK DREAMS! A *PLACE* WHOSE NAME IS ONLY WHISPERED... *SARNADD-DOOM!*

"LET ME TAKE YOU *BACK* TO A TIME WHEN *NEITHER* GOOD NOR EVIL CAME TO *BE*! A TIME WHEN THE *LAND* AND SARNADD-DOOM WAS *ALL* THERE WAS BENEATH THE MOON. WHEN SOMETHING RESEMBLING *MAN* FINALLY STOOD ON TWO LEGS AND BAYED AT THE PALE ORB ABOVE."

"BUT THOSE EMERGENT FORERUNNERS OF MAN HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY SOMETHING YET *OLDER* AND MORE *FEARSOME*! FEARSOME ENOUGH TO CARVE INTO *STATUES* AND *WORSHIP* AS UNGODLY *DEMONS*!"

"SPURRED BY FEAR AND ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE ELDER GOD THEY WORSHIPPED, THE FIRST RACE RETREATED HERE AND RAISED A GREAT CITY...THE FIRST CITY."
"THE QUESTION THAT REMAINS: DID THEY RAISE THEIR CITY UP TO KEEP THE THING THEY MOST FEARED OUT...OR...IN?"

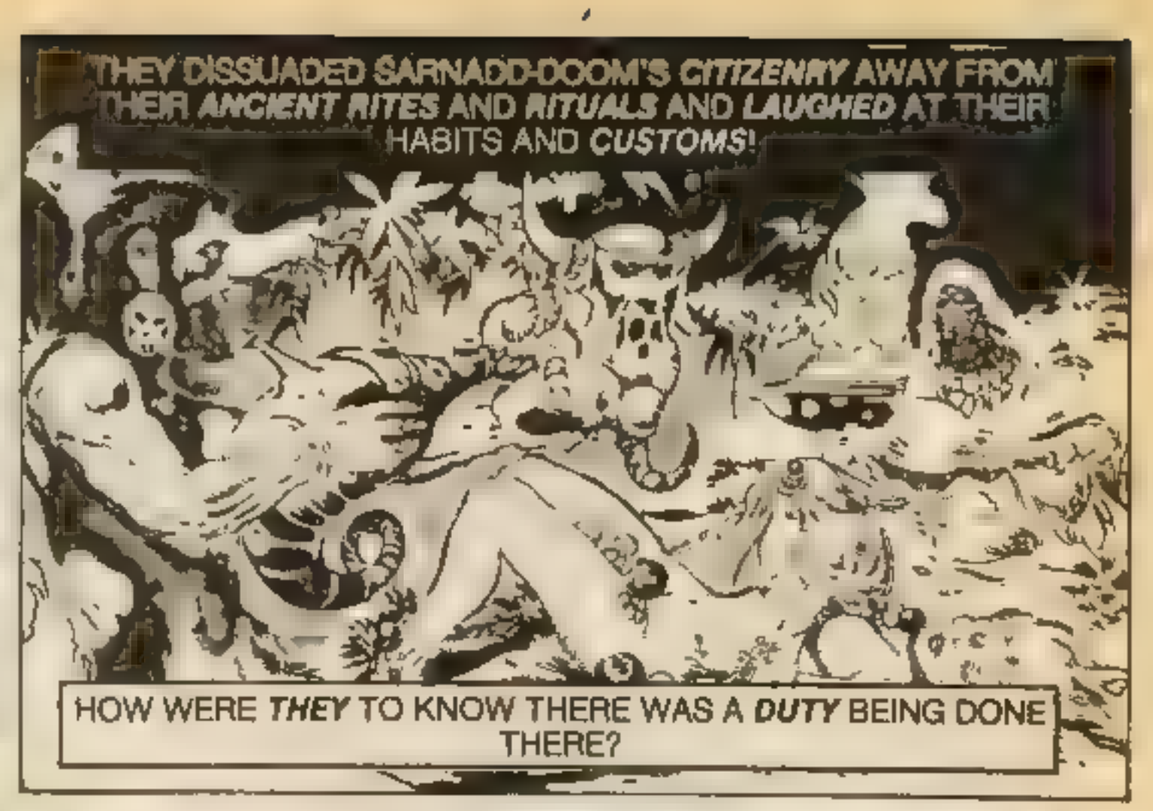
"WAS SARNADD-DOOM *GOOD* OR *EVIL*? IF IT KEPT SOME FEARSOME THING *OUT* IT WAS *GOOD*. IF IT KEPT IT *INSIDE*, IT WAS *EVIL!*"

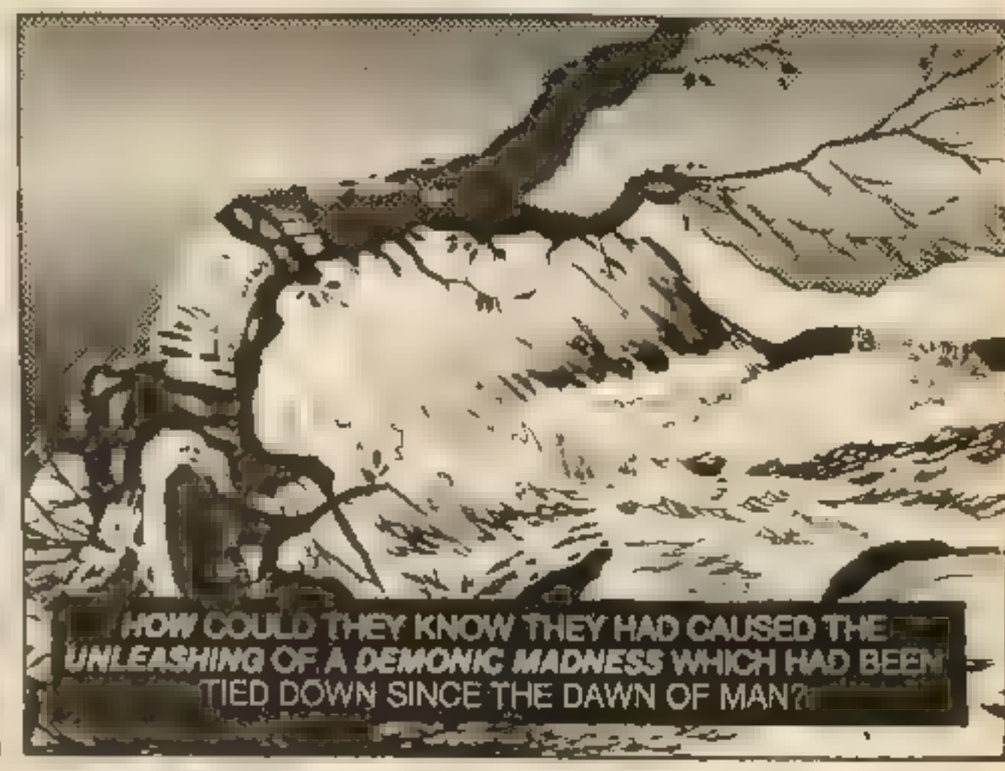
"BUT THE BARBARIAN *WARRIORS*, THE SACKERS AND LOOTERS, CARED NOT TO ASK. THEY SAW ONLY *TREASURES* MORE RARE THAN ANY IN ALL THE *EARTH*, AND *CARED* ONLY TO *TAKE*."

BUT MUCH OF THE *CITY* AND ITS SECRETS REMAIN UNLEARNED. IS IT GOOD, IS IT EVIL? *HOW* WILL BEHK-BEGAHN BE *REVEALED* WHEN HE FINDS OUT THE *ANSWER?*

COME! WE'LL *TAKE* THIS CITY AND *ALL* WITHIN IT! LET THE OLD GATE WARDEN RIDDLE HIS RIDDLES! AND WE'LL *PLUNDER* THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF SARNAD-DOOM!

AND DAMN BE THE SECRETS WITHIN HER!

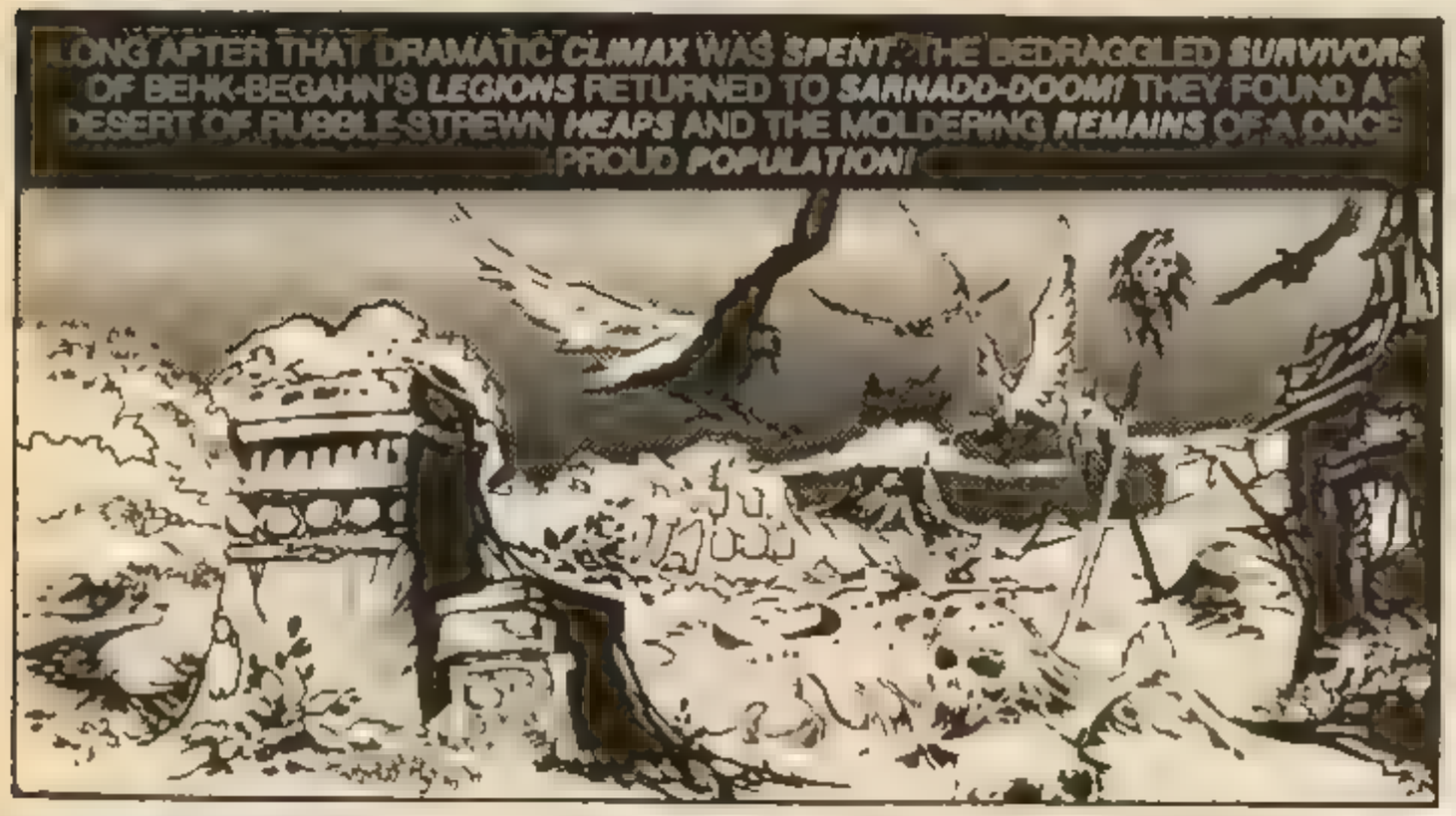


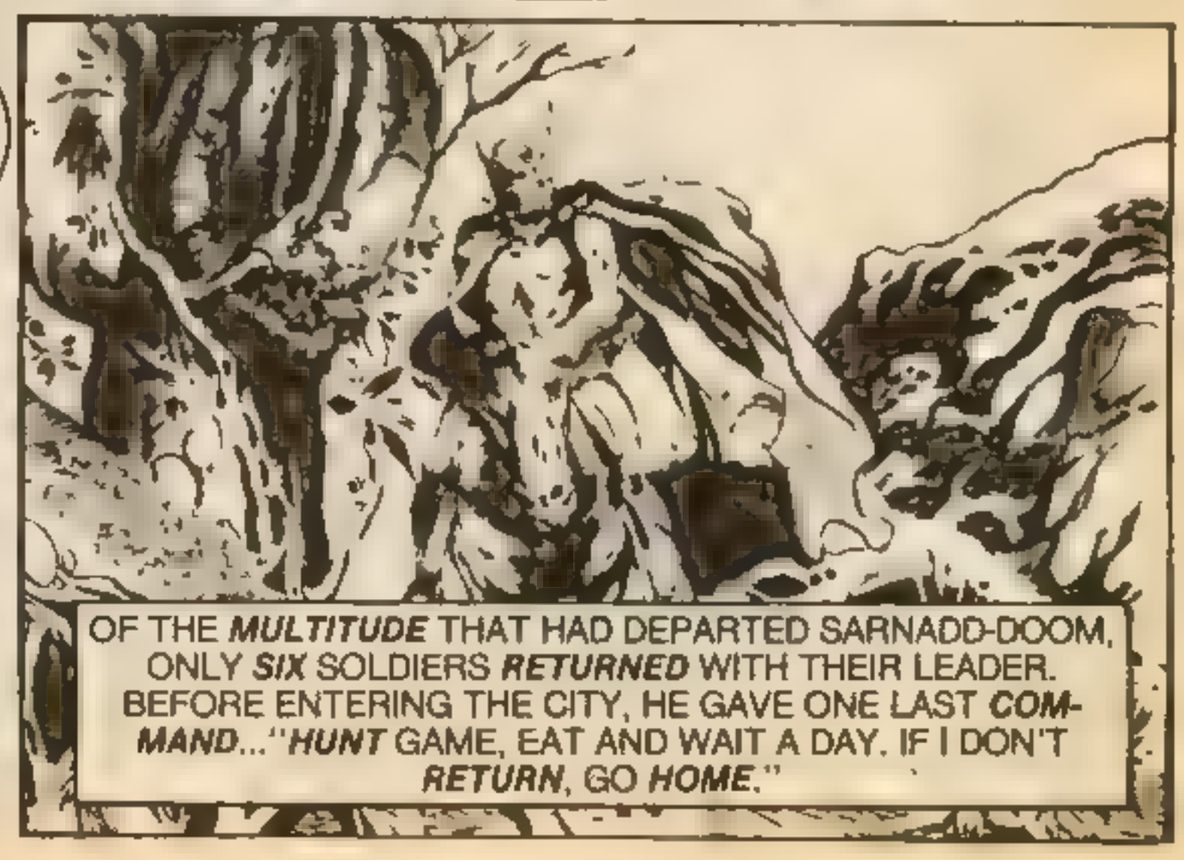


ONLY A *DEMENTED* MIND COULD *CONCEIVE* OF THE *RETURN* OF THE BEAST OF SARNADD-DOOM!

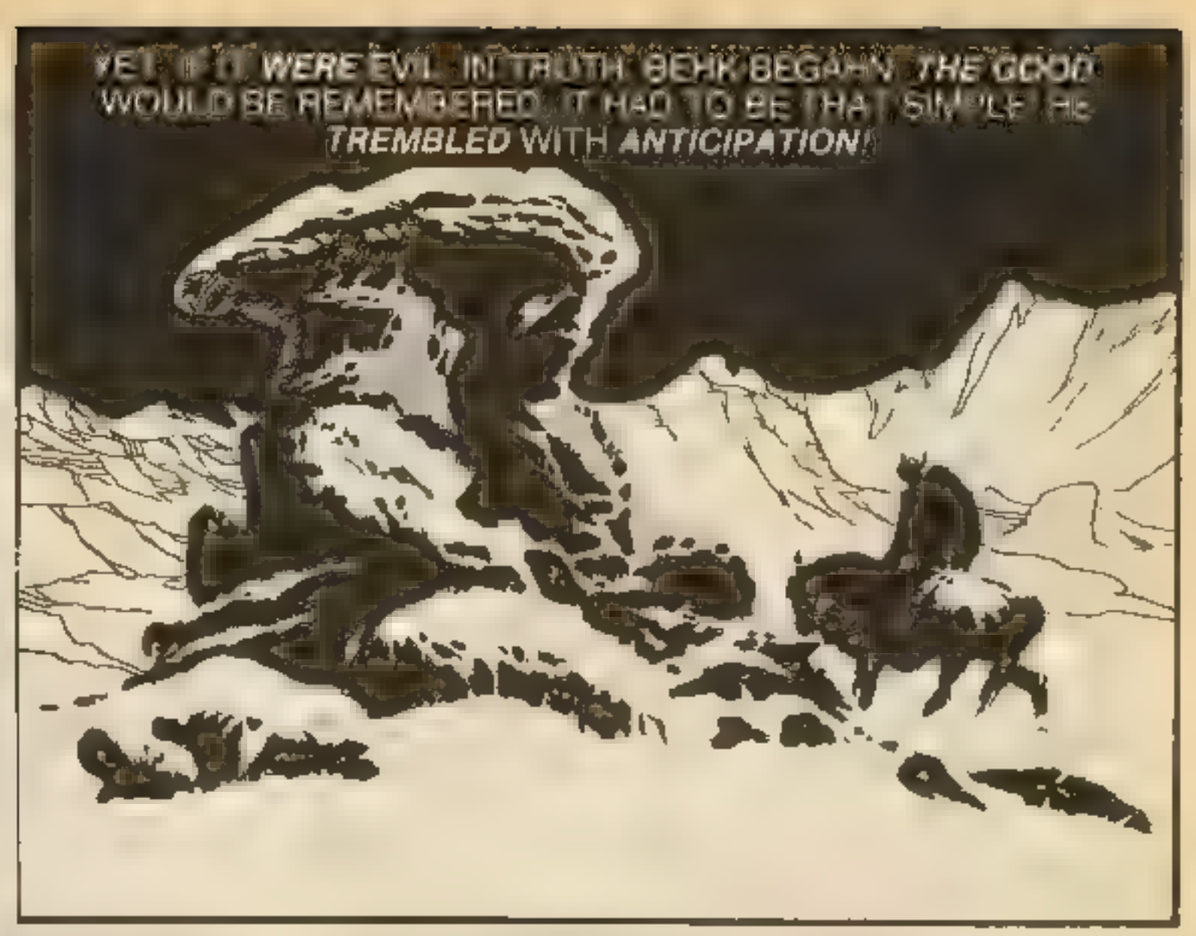
AND TO THOSE OF BEGAHN'S MEN WHO'D STAYED BEHIND IN THEIR ***MINDLESS*** ORGIASTIC REVEL, THE ***SECRET*** OF SARNADD-DOOM STOOD ***REVEALED***. PARADOXICALLY, THEY DID NOT ***CARE***. THEY ***DIED***...NOT CARING!

TO THEM, IT WAS BUT THE ULTIMATE ***ORGASMIC*** CULMINATION OF THEIR LIVES. IT WAS THE SUPREME, HORRORIFIC ***CLIMAX*** OF LIFE...***DEATH***!





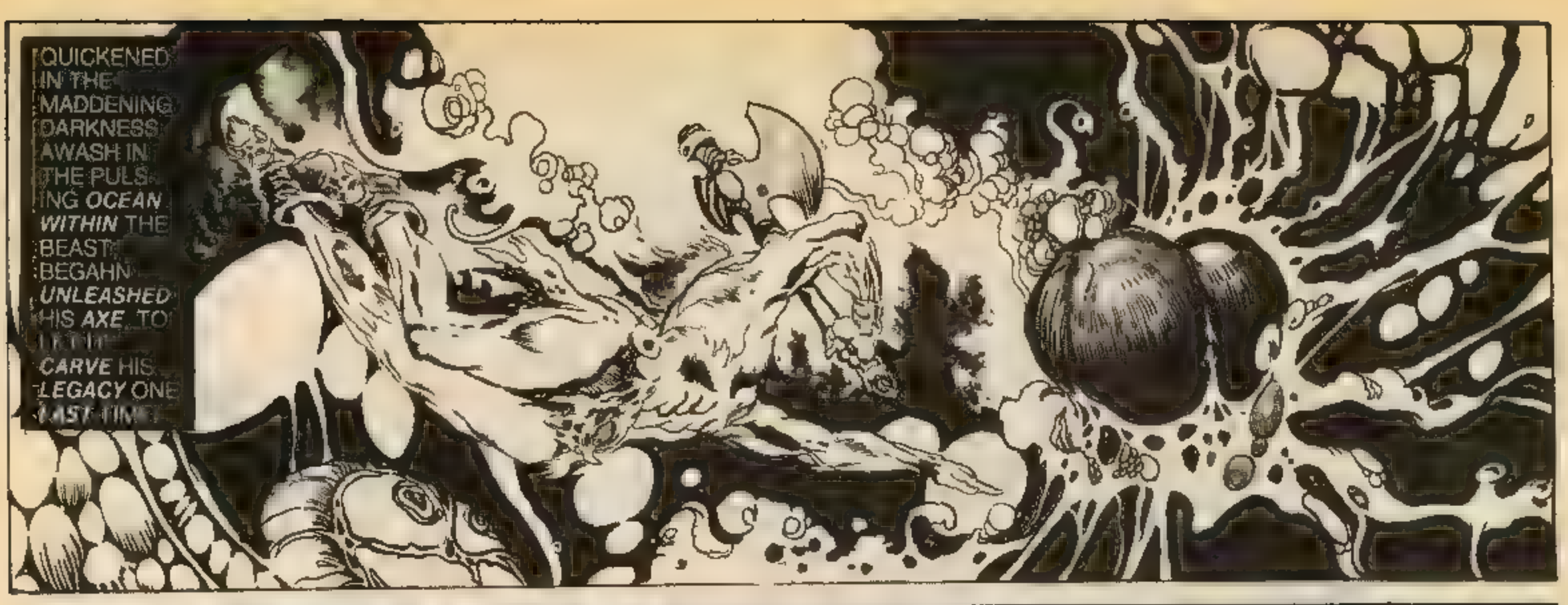
IF THE THING HE SOUGHT WAS SOMETHING GOOD TO KILL IT WOULD MAKE HIM EVIL!
THIS TORTOISE SHELL WILL MAKE MY ARMOR!

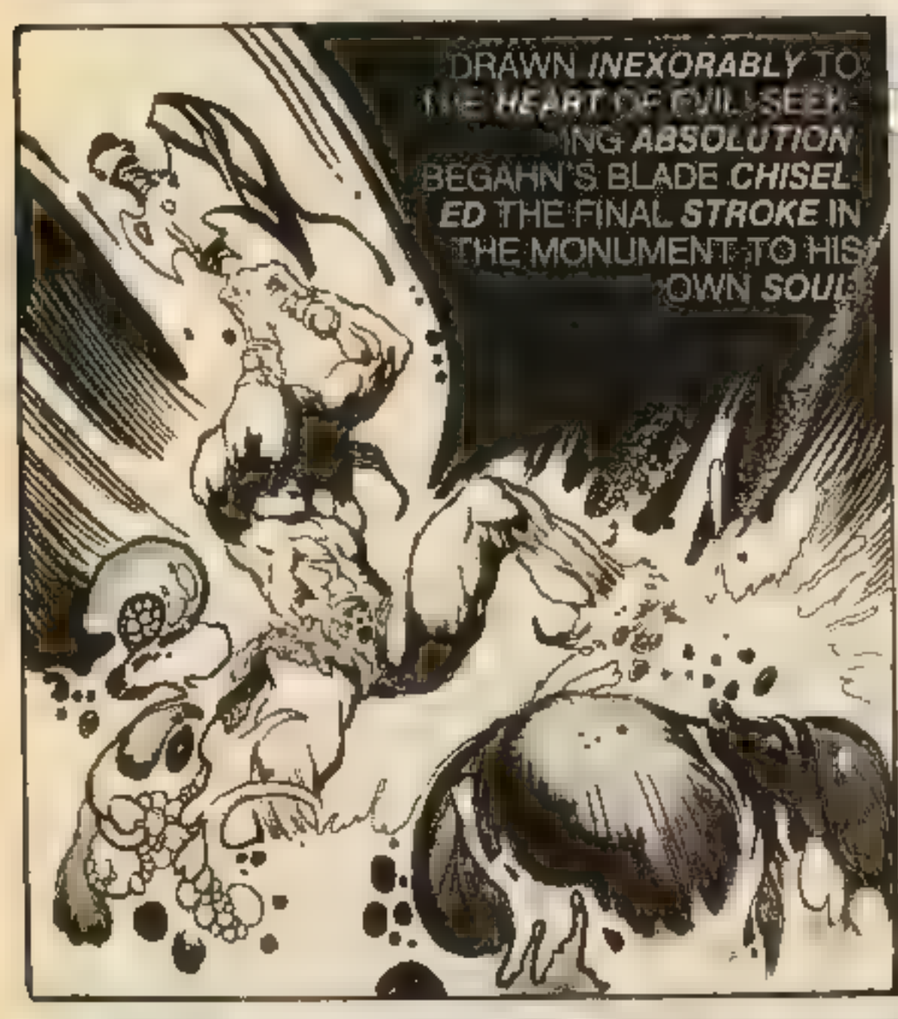

YET IF IT WERE EVIL, IN TRUTH, BEHK BEGAHN THE GOOD WOULD BE REMEMBERED. IT HAD TO BE THAT SIMPLE! HE TREMBLED WITH ANTICIPATION!

BUT THE WAIT WAS NOT LONG! DRAWN TOWARD HUMAN FRAILTY, CONFUSION, AND DOUBT, THE BEAST SURFACED FROM THE ROILING SEA OF MORBIDITY IN WHICH IT WAS BORN!
GROWWRR
BY THE BREASTS OF THE DEMON'S MOTHER!
YES! THE GATE WARDEN'S TALE! THIS MUST BE THE SECRET OF SARNADD-DOOM! THE THING AROUND WHICH THE FIRST RACE BUILT THEIR CITY!
IT IS HERE! THE SUM OF MAN'S FEAR AND THE SUMMIT OF HIS EVIL!

COME, THOU VILESOME WORM! COME AND PURIFY MY SINS!
IN THEE, I WILL BE CLEANSED IN THY CURSED BLOOD!

ARMORED BY HIS GREED FOR REDEMPTION, HIS LUST FOR SALVATION, FEARING ONLY DAMNATION.
BEGAHN LEAPT INTO THE MAW OF THE BEAST!

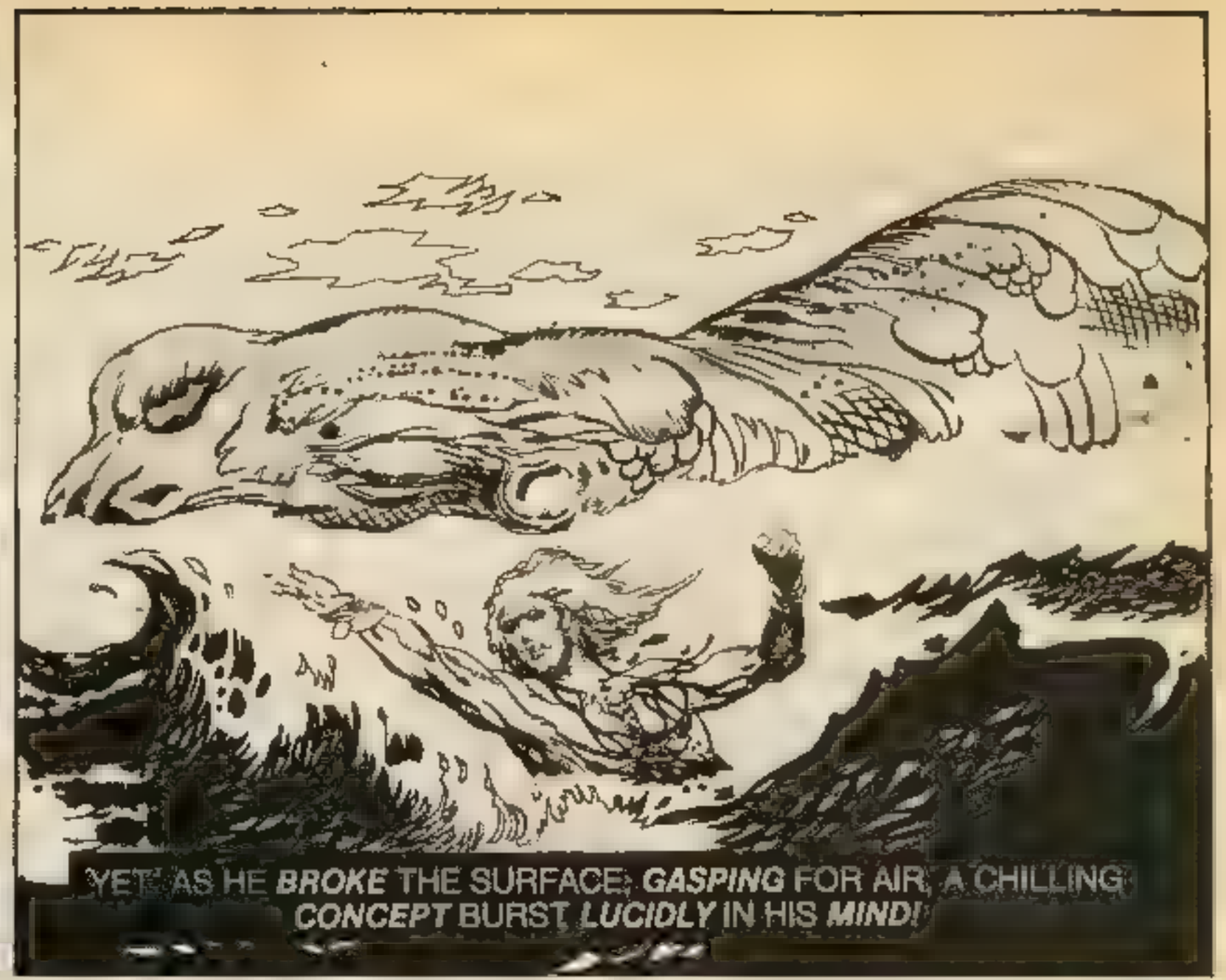

QUICKENED IN THE MADDENING DARKNESS AWASH IN THE PULSING OCEAN WITHIN THE BEAST BEGAHN UNLEASHED HIS AXE TO CARVE HIS LEGACY ONE LAST TIME!

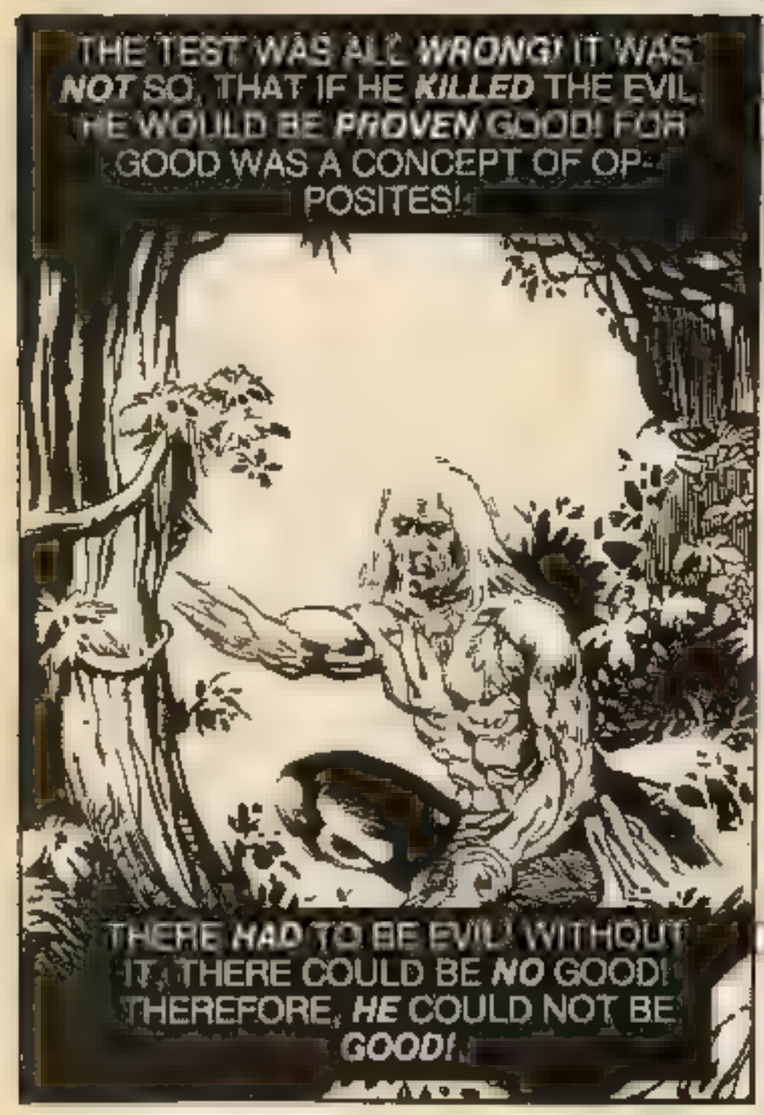

DRAWN INEXORABLY TO THE HEART OF EVIL SEEKING ABSOLUTION BEGAHN'S BLADE CHISELED THE FINAL STROKE IN THE MONUMENT TO HIS OWN SOUL

CONVULSING AND HEAVING, THE BEAST WRITHED MINDLESSLY AS ITS HEART WAS CLOVEN WITHIN ITS STILL LIVING BODY!

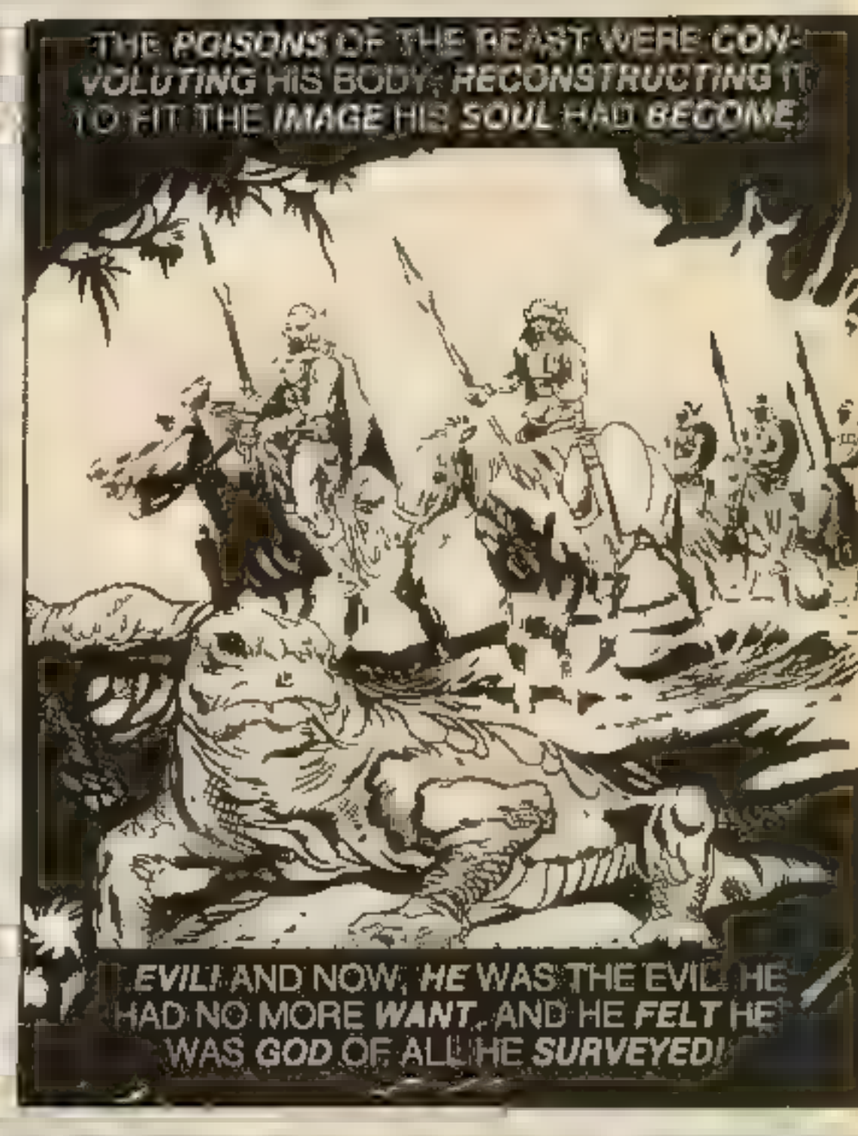
THE ANCIENT BEAST OF SARNADD-DOOM, THAT FIRST HORROR, THAT ORIGINAL EVIL FELL, PIERCED FROM WITHIN, SLAIN!
AND WITH THE FEAR THEY WORSHIPPED DEAD, SO TOO DIED THE LAST REMEMBRANCE OF THE FIRST RACE OF MAN.
AND THE EVILS BOTH MIGHT HAVE BEEN, WERE SEEN ON THE EARTH NO MORE!

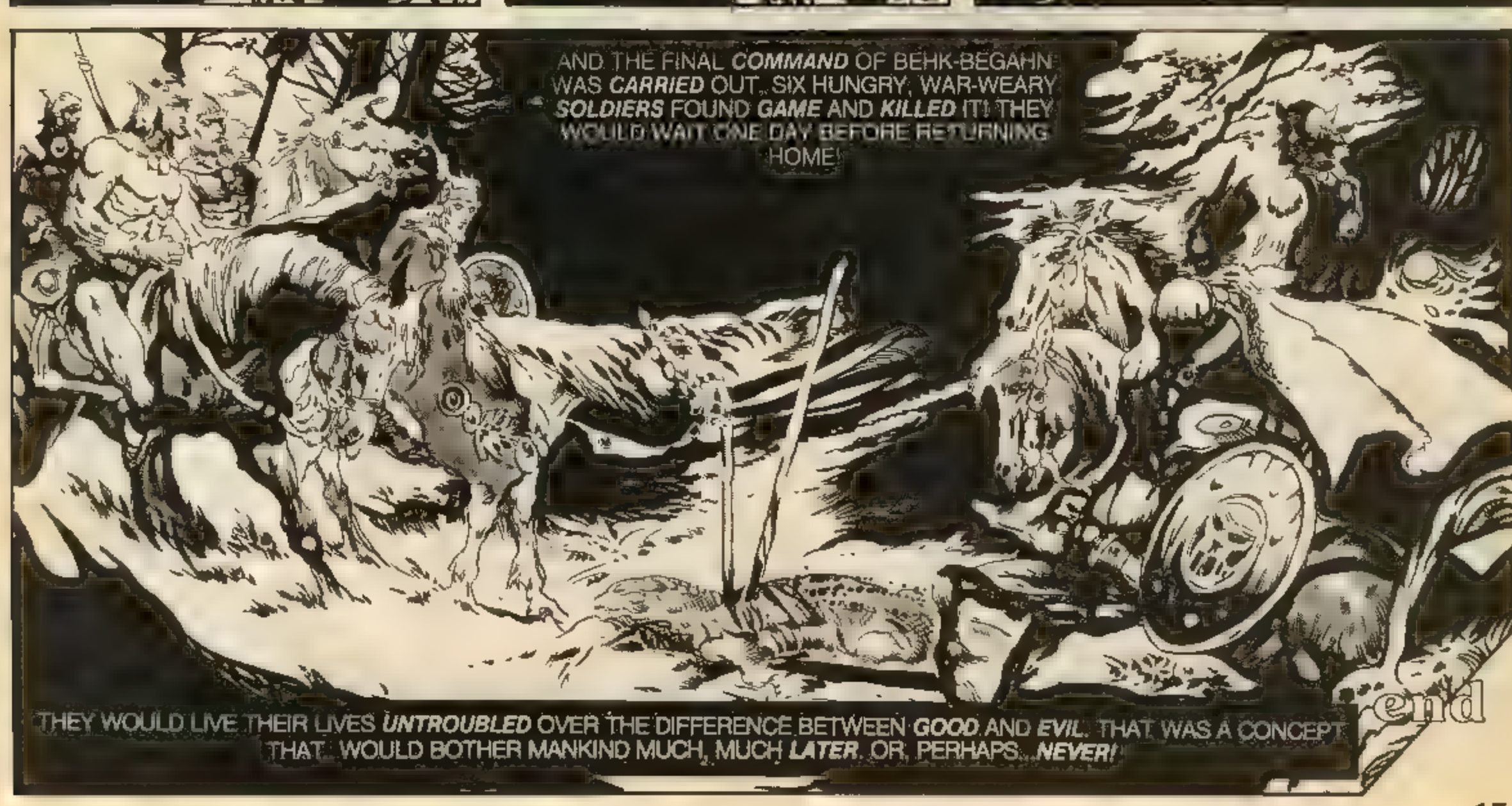
THE EVIL WAS DEAD. BEGAHN'S HEART SURGED AS HE KICKED FREE, SHOOTING TOWARD THE SURFACE, EXALTED WITH VINDICATION.


YET, AS HE BROKE THE SURFACE, GASPING FOR AIR, A CHILLING CONCEPT BURST LUCIDLY IN HIS MIND!


THE TEST WAS ALL WRONG! IT WAS NOT SO, THAT IF HE KILLED THE EVIL, HE WOULD BE PROVEN GOOD! FOR GOOD WAS A CONCEPT OF OPPOSITES!
THERE HAD TO BE EVIL! WITHOUT IT, THERE COULD BE NO GOOD! THEREFORE, HE COULD NOT BE GOOD!

THE NAME OF BEHK-BEGAHN WAS MORE FEARED ACROSS THE WORLD THAN THE MEMORY OF THE BEAST OF SARNADD-DOOM!
BUT THE BEAST WAS NO MORE! YET BEHK-BEGAHN LIVED! AND THE ULTIMATE CONCEPT WAS BORN IN HIS AGONIZED BRAIN!

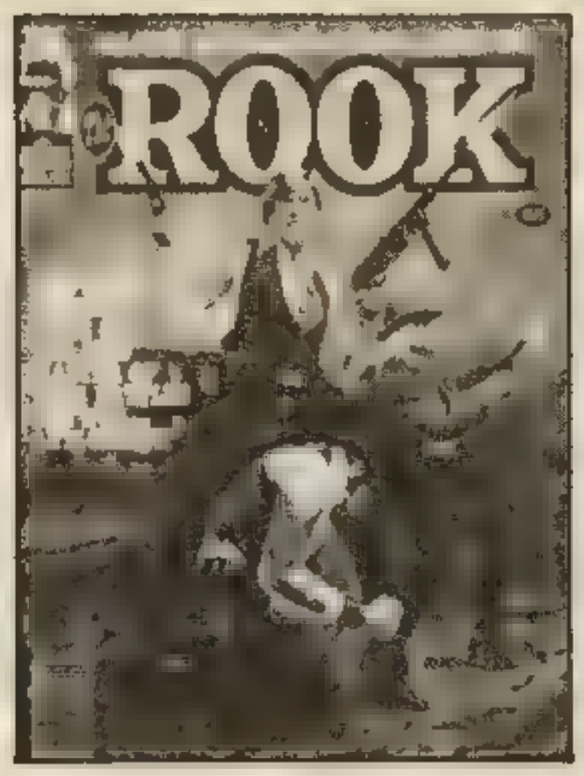

THE POISONS OF THE BEAST WERE CONVOLUTING HIS BODY, RECONSTRUCTING IT TO FIT THE IMAGE HIS SOUL HAD BECOME.
EVIL! AND NOW, HE WAS THE EVIL. HE HAD NO MORE WANT, AND HE FELT HE WAS GOD OF ALL HE SURVEYED!


AND THE FINAL COMMAND OF BEHK-BEGAHN WAS CARRIED OUT. SIX HUNGRY, WAR-WEARY SOLDIERS FOUND GAME AND KILLED IT! THEY WOULD WAIT ONE DAY BEFORE RETURNING HOME!
THEY WOULD LIVE THEIR LIVES UNTROUBLED OVER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. THAT WAS A CONCEPT THAT WOULD BOTHER MANKIND MUCH, MUCH LATER, OR, PERHAPS... NEVER!
end

WARREN MAGAZINES

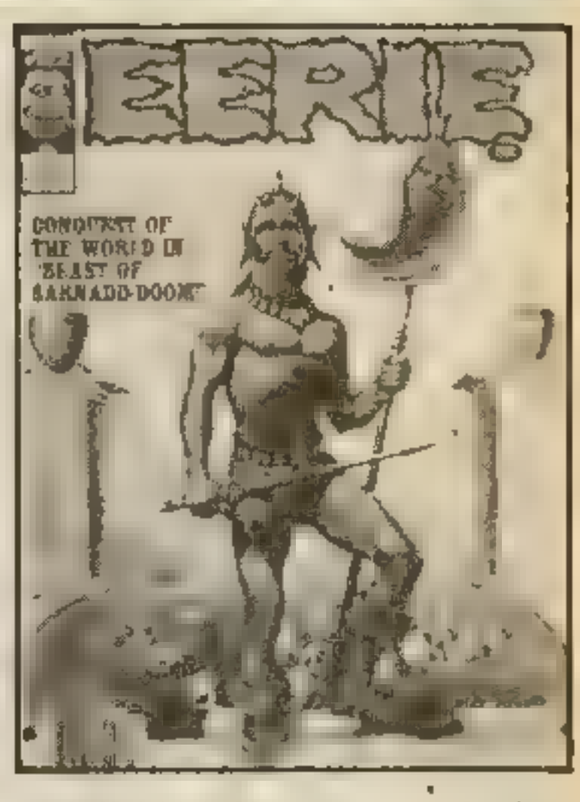
THE NEW AGE OF ILLUSTRATED EPIC ADVENTURE IS READY FOR DELIVERY NOW!

VAMPIRELLA #96: The greatest heroine in all comicdom faces the deadliest foe ever: The horrible Hounds of Hell! Pantha uncovers an ancient Egyptian tomb in The Night of the Cat Goddess! Plus Cassandra St. Knight!

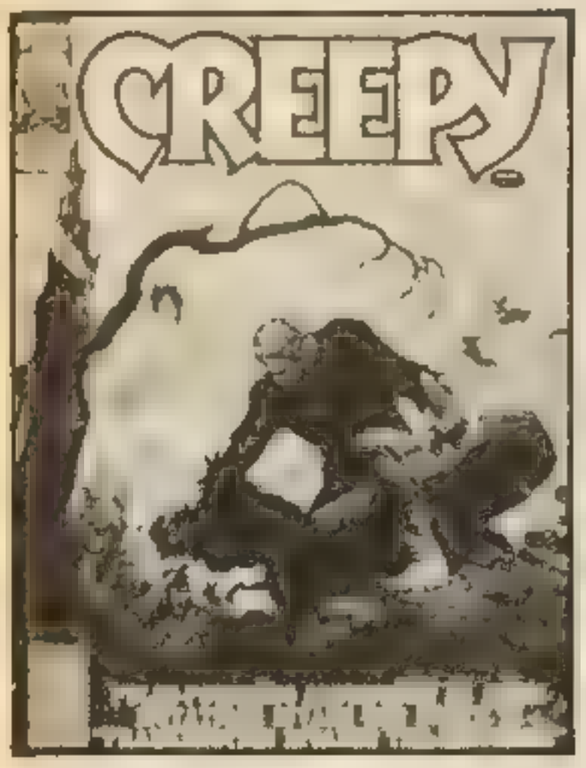


ROOK #9: Exciting epic adventure as the Master of Time, Restin Dane, swashbuckles from the far future to the distant past! Also included are the incredible Joe Guy, the fascinating Kronos and the fabulous barbarian: Voltar! Don't miss the excitement!

1994 #18: Sizzling with sin, sex and sensuality in every hot issue! Tingle to The Lost Love of Francis P. Thitwacker! Shiver with delight as Ghita undulates through a new adventure! Let your mind boggle with the epic adventures of Mad Planet and Lone Wolf!



EERIE #122: Non-stop explosive action leaps from the pages of this incredible issue! Zud Kamish searches out his betrayer, Haggarth seeks to find himself! A mighty warload meets his fate in the fabled city of Sarnadd Doom! And the mystery of The Mist!



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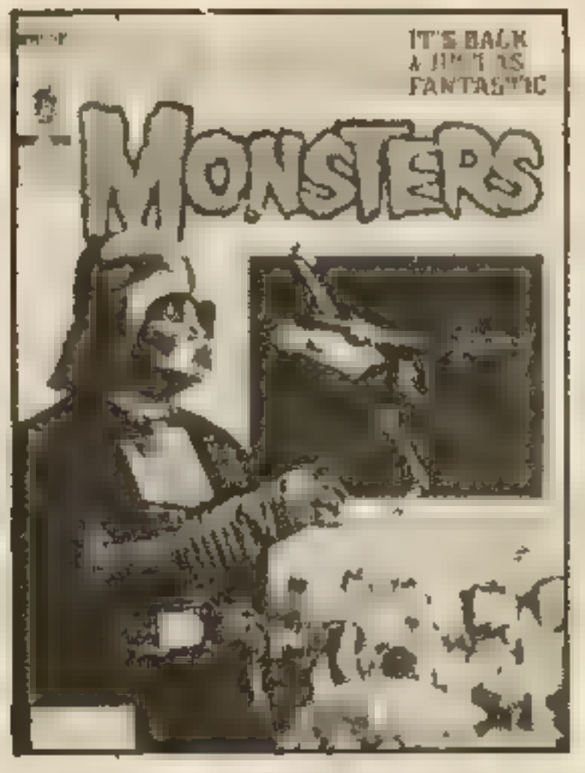

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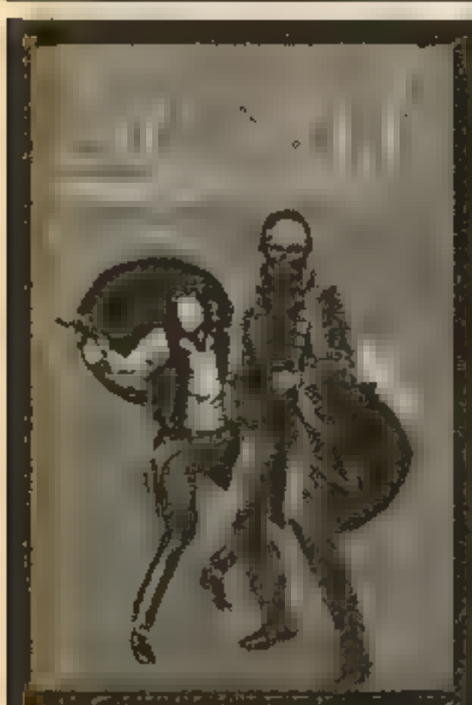

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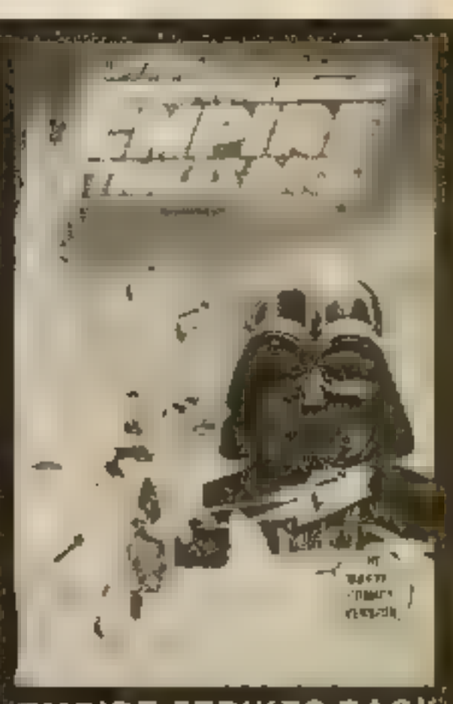

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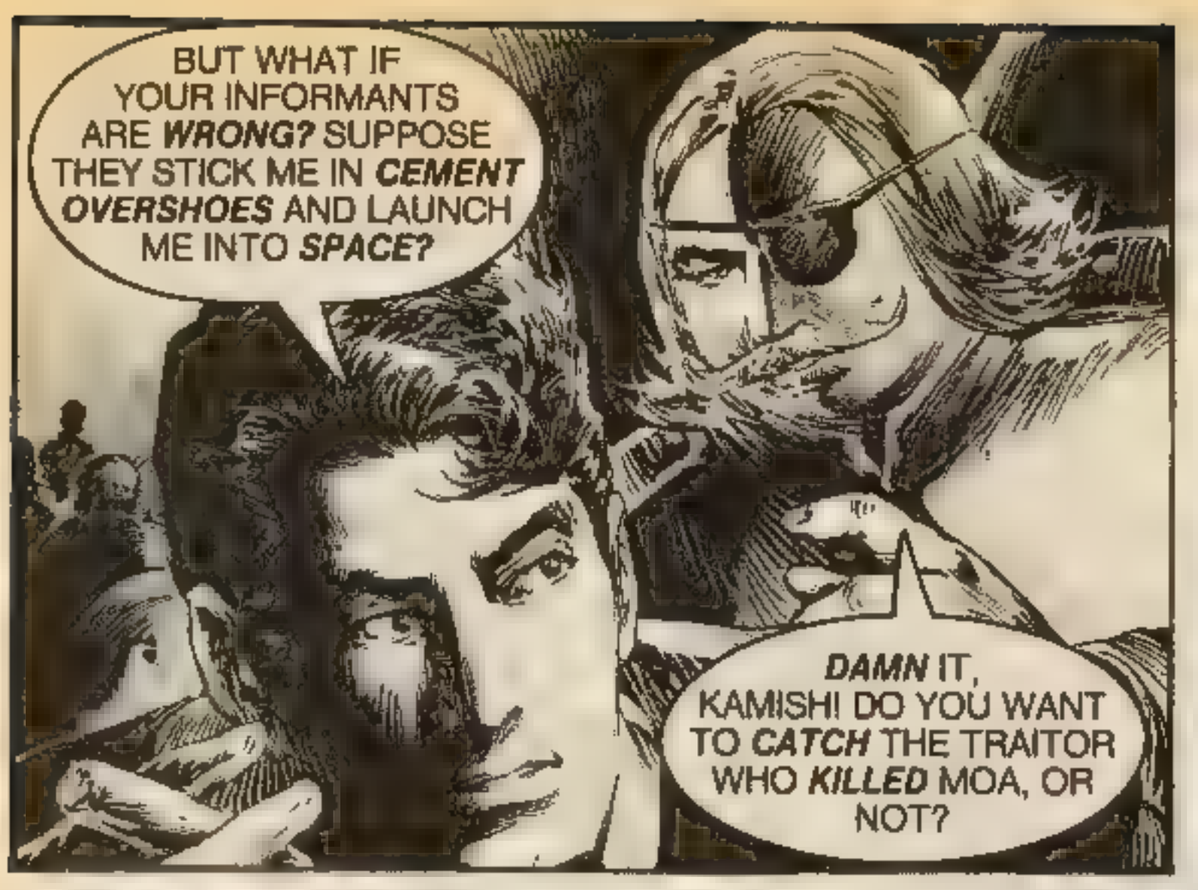
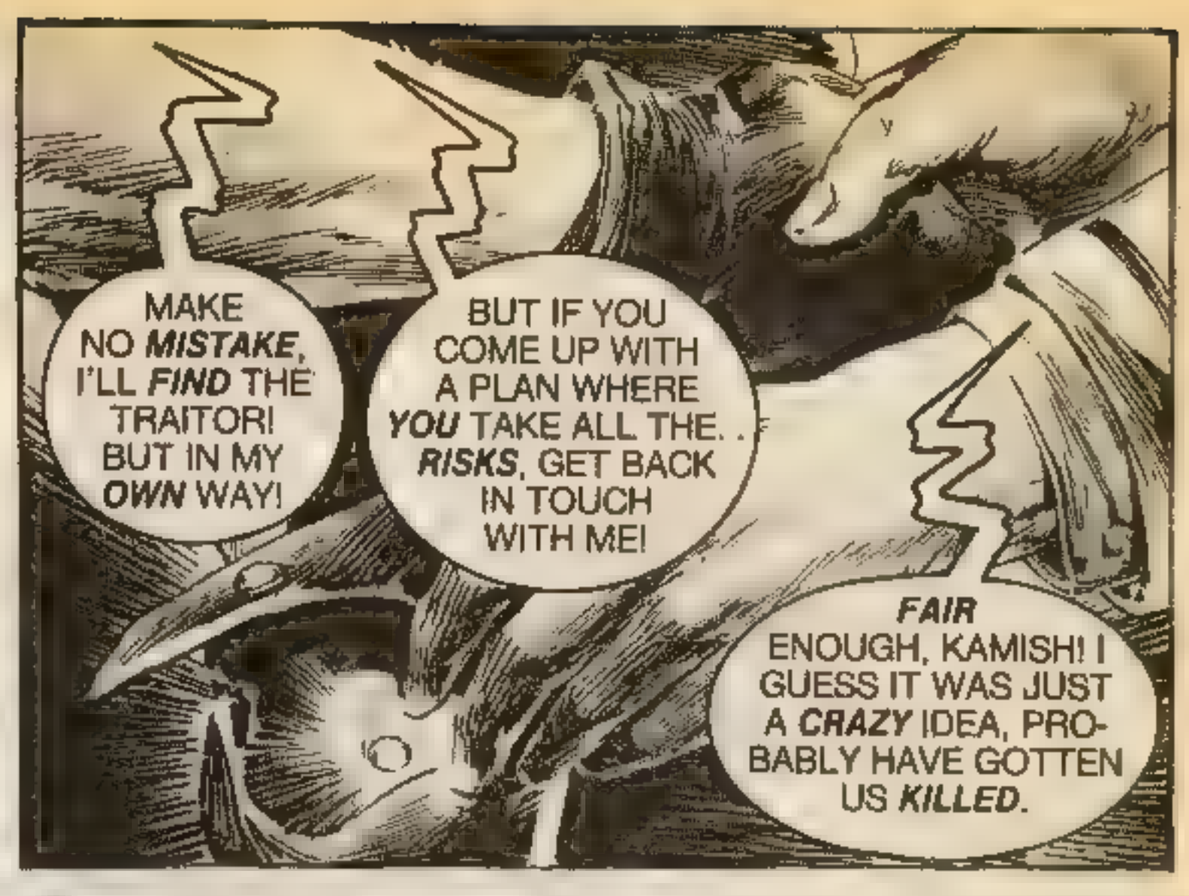
Author: **ALABASTER REDZONE**/Illustrator: **E.R. CRUZ**

ZUD? WHAT'S THE *MATTER*, ZUD? WHY ARE YOU HIDING YOUR *FACE?*
SHHH! SHE'LL *HEAR* YOU!
SO *THERE* YOU ARE, ZUD! I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR YOU!
C'MON DOMINO YOU'VE ALREADY TIED UP MY *SHIP* AND MY *MONEY*...WHAT *MORE* DO YOU WANT?
JUST WANTED YOU TO *KNOW* THAT WITH THE HELP OF MY *DEAR* FRIEND, JUDGE *TARRAS*, I'VE HAD YOUR *CREDIT CARDS* INVALIDATED AND YOUR *PHOTO* WIRED TO ALL THE SHUTTLE-PORTS
THERE'S *NO* WAY *OFF* THIS PLANET FOR YOU *NOW*, PET. AND IF YOU TRY TO HIDE, *BLOODHOUND-ROBS* WILL *FIND* YOU!
THE ALIMONY TRIAL'S SET FOR *NINE* SHARP. *DO* TRY TO BE ON TIME!
SORRY, ZUD. I GUESS I *SCREWED* UP!
FORGET IT! SHE'D HAVE *FOUND* ME IN A *SARDINE CAN* LET'S GO INSIDE AND SEE WHAT THE *GROUP* IS UP TO!
THE WEEK S *EVENTS* WOUND UP RATHER *SOLEMNLY* AT THE *WINDFALL CASINO!* THOUGH THE SUBJECT WAS *AVOIDED*, THE *DEATH* OF THEIR COMPANION, *MOA*, CAST A PALL OVER THE *COMETEER'S* FINAL DAY TOGETHER
MULTIPLY THAT HEARTACHE TIMES *SIX*, AND YOU WOULD KNOW THE PAIN ZUD WAS FEELING...FOR ONLY *HE* KNEW THAT *ONE* AMONG THE COMETEERS WAS MOA'S *MURDERER*
ZUD? ARE YOU *FEELING* ALL RIGHT?
I'M OKAY, BRANDY! I'LL JUST BE GLAD WHEN THIS REUNION *NONSENSE* IS OVER AND I CAN GET *OFF* THIS BLOODY PLANET!

YOU CAN'T LET WHAT HAPPENED TO MOA *OVERWHELM* YOU, ZUD. IT WASN'T YOUR *FAULT*.
I *KNOW!* BUT YOU CAN BE GODDAMN CERTAIN THAT BEFORE I LEAVE THIS PLANET I'M GOING TO FIND TO WHOSE FAULT IT *IS!*
S'CUSE ME, FOLKS I GOTTA GET SOME *AIR!*
KEEP AN *EYE* ON HIM, WILL YOU, *SPARKGAP?* HE HAS ME *WORRIED!*
AYE, AYE, COMMODORE!
ZUD DIDN'T QUITE REACH THE DOOR OF THE CASINO WHEN *COLE SAXON* CORRALED HIM
ZUD! WHAT LUCK THAT I FOUND YOU! MY *INFORMANTS'VE* JUST TOLD ME WE'VE HAD A *BREAK* IN THE *DESPERADO* CASE!
MOAN AMSCRAY, WILLYA, SAXON? I AIN'T UP *TO* LISTENING TO ANY MORE OF YOUR HARESBRAINED *SCHEMES* RIGHT NOW!
BUT IT'S *GOOD NEWS*, ZUD! THE DESPERADOS HAVE GIVEN YOU A *REPRIEVE!* THEY DON T WANT TO *KILL* YOU ANYMORE JUST *TALK* TO YOU!
APPARENTLY ONE OF THE DESPERADO HONCHOS HAS BECOME VERY *IMPRESSED* WITH YOU HE HAS A *DEAL* HE THINKS WILL INTEREST YOU
I THINK THEY WANT YOU TO JOIN THEM!
I *AIN'T* INTERESTED!
I KNOW THAT! BUT WE MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER *OPPORTUNITY* LIKE THIS!
WORD IS THE DESPERADOS ARE ABOUT TO MAKE A HUGE *MONEY TRANSFER* IF WE CAN FIND THE TRANSFER'S *LOCATION*, WE CAN CAUSE THE DESPERADOS SO MUCH DAMAGE THEY'LL BE *FORCED OUT* OF THE FAR-FLUNG!
WERE YOU A POOR *LISTENER* IN SCHOOL, *TOO?* I SAID--!
MY IDEA IS TO *LET* THE DESPERADOS MAKE *CONTACT* WITH YOU, AND WITH A LITTLE LUCK, THEY'LL TAKE YOU TO THE SAME PLACE THE *MONEY TRANSFER* WILL OCCUR!
YOU'LL HAVE THIS *TRACER* ON YOU. POLICE RADAR WILL *ZERO* IN ON YOU AND LEAD US TO THEIR *HIDEOUT!*


BUT WHAT IF YOUR INFORMANTS ARE *WRONG?* SUPPOSE THEY STICK ME IN *CEMENT OVERSHOES* AND LAUNCH ME INTO *SPACE?*
DAMN IT, KAMISH! DO YOU WANT TO *CATCH* THE TRAITOR WHO *KILLED* MOA, OR NOT?


MAKE NO *MISTAKE*, I'LL *FIND* THE TRAITOR! BUT IN MY *OWN* WAY!
BUT IF YOU COME UP WITH A PLAN WHERE *YOU* TAKE ALL THE *RISKS*, GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME!
FAIR ENOUGH, KAMISH! I GUESS IT WAS JUST A *CRAZY* IDEA, PROBABLY HAVE GOTTEN US *KILLED*.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING! AND TO SHOW YOU THERE'S NO *HARD* FEELINGS, I'M GONNA DO YOU A BIG *FAVOR*!
C'MON, I WANT YOU TO *MEET* SOMEONE...

DOMINO, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE *COLE SAXON*, THE COSMIC BUFFALO HE'S *RICH*, LOVE... RICHER EVEN THAN *ME!*
OHHH, MR SAXON! IT'S A *PLEASURE* TO MEET YOU !

BOYOBOY! THIS COULD WORK OUT *YET!* IF DOMINO GETS HER *CLAWS* INTO SAXON, SHE MAY *FORGET* ALL ABOUT ME. THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK UP AT *LAST!*

CLOP!

MOMENTS LATER, ***SPARKGAP*** WHEELED ONTO THE SCENE!

ROSSUM'S UNIVERSAL ROBOTS

SAY! THOSE GUYS ARE ***CRAMMING*** ZUD INTO THAT ***HOV-ERVAN!*** WHAT'S GOING ***ON?***

BUT BEFORE SPARKGAP COULD RUSH TO THE ***RESCUE***, THE HOVERVAN FLEW OFF MURRAY'S WILD ***GREEN*** YONDER!

NUTS! TOO ***LATE!***

MEGADOLLARS TO ***DOUGHNUTS*** IT'S THE ***DESPERADOS*** AT ***WORK*** AGAIN. I GOTTA TELL THE ***COMETEERS*** RIGHT AWAY!

FAR ACROSS CONTINENT-SPANNING SKYSCRAPER CITY, THE HOVERVAN CARRYING ZUD ARRIVED AT ITS DESTINATION ***ROSSUM'S UNIVERSAL ROBOTS*** SUPPLIER OF HALF THE ***AUTOMATONS*** IN THE ***FAR FLUNG***, AND LONG KNOWN TO BE ***LINKED*** WITH ***CRIMINALS.***

ROSSUM'S UNIVERSAL ROBO

SEVERAL HOURS ***LATER***, IN THE ECHOEING REACHES OF A ***DIM WARE-HOUSE***, AN ***UN-ARMED*** AND VERY ***CON-FUSED*** ZUD ***REVIVED*** TO ***FIND*** !

ON YOUR FEET, FLESHBAG! SHE ***WANTS*** YOU!

SHE?

ZUD WAS ROUGHLY ***DRAGGED*** DOWN THE LENGTH OF A ROBOT ***PRODUCTION*** LINE, PAST ROBOTS LYING ***HALF-ASSEMBLED*** ON CON-VEYOR BELTS.

DAYS ***BACK*** . IN THE ***STEAMLUBE***... MAXILAR'S ROBOTS WERE TALKING ABOUT A ***FEMALE*** ENVOY. .

OH, GOD .IT ***CAN'T*** BE!

THEN, TO ZUD'S ***HORROR***, HE DISCOVERED ***ALL*** THE COMETEERS, TRUSSED HELPLESSLY OVER A GIANT ***METAL SHREDDER***. A TOSS OF A LEVER WOULD LOWER THEM ALL INTO THE MACHINE'S ***SPINNING MAW!***

SORRY, ZUD. ***LOOKS*** LIKE I ***SCREWED*** UP ***AGAIN!***

WHEN I SAW YOU BEING ***NABBED***, I GOT ALL THE COMETEERS TOGETHER TO GO AFTER YOU. HOW WAS I ***SUPPOSED*** TO KNOW ***BRANDY*** WAS WORKING FOR THE DESPERADOS ***ALL*** THE ***TIME?***

SO ***YOU'RE*** THE SPECIAL ***ENVOY!*** I SHOULD'VE MADE THE ***CONNECTION*** DAYS AGO.

BUT ***WHY***, BRANDY IN GOD'S NAME WHY DID ***YOU*** DO IT?

BECAUSE I'M A ***SOLDIER***, ZUD. AFTER OUR SQUADRON ***DISBANDED***, I WAS LEFT SELLING ***FASHIONS*** AND ***PERFUMES*** PLANET TO PLANET. I WAS GOING ***CRAZY***, SKIPPER!

NATURALLY. WHEN THE ***OPPORTUNITY*** CAME UP TO JOIN THE ***DEEP SPACE DESPERADOS***, I JUMPED AT THE ***CHANCE!***

CONCEALED INSIDE THE COMPONENTS OF THESE ROBOTS ARE ***BILLION*** IN ***PRECIOUS METALS***...ENOUGH TO ***FINANCE*** OUR OPERATION IN THE FARFLUNG FOR ***YEARS*** TO COME!

YOU CAN BECOME A ***PART*** OF IT IF YOU ***WANT*** TO, ZUD. ***JOIN US!*** AND I'LL ***REPLACE*** THE MONEY YOUR WIFE IS STEALING FROM YOU A ***DOZEN*** TIMES OVER!

AT THE ***SAME*** MOMENT, OUTSIDE, HALF A DOZEN ***POLICE*** HOVERCARS SOARED BETWEEN THE GIANT SKYSCRAPERS, ***SEARCHING*** FRANTICALLY FOR ***ZUD KAMISH!***

HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY ***ZEROING IN*** ON THE TRACER ***SIGNAL***, MR. SAXON. ***POWER*** IS ***DROPPING*** ON IT!

WE'RE IN THE ***RIGHT*** NEIGHBORHOOD KEEP YOUR EYES ***PEELED!***

SORRY, BRANDY, BUT I DON'T THINK *I* COULD *THROW IN* WITH A BUNCH OF CHEAP, BACKSTABBING *HOODS*. I GOT MY *STANDARDS*, YOU KNOW.

THEN, IF YOU WON'T *JOIN* US--!

JUST THEN, THE *POLICE* SHIPS *SOARED* PAST THE WINDOWS OF THE FACTORY, THROWING THE CRIME BOSSES INTO A *FRENZY!*

POLICE SHIPS! WE'VE BEEN *DISCOVERED!*

NO! THEY'RE GOING *PAST* US! DON'T *PANIC* ANYONE!

AH, *HERE'S* THE *ANSWER!* THE *POLICE* ARE FOLLOWING THIS *TRACER*, FIGURING WE'D *ABDUCT* YOU.

SORRY, ZUD. *NO* LAST MINUTE *RESCUE* FOR YOU *THIS* TIME!

BUT AS ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED AT ZUD, NO ONE SAW SPARKGAP CUTTING THROUGH HIS ROPES WITH HIS PINCER-LIKE FINGERS.

THAT LITTLE *ROBOT!* HE'S *BROKEN FREE!*

STOP HIM! QUICKLY! BEFORE HE CAN--!

BUT, THE LITTLE ROBOT WAS *NOT* TO BE *STOPPED!*

CRASH!

601

POLICE

THERE! THE *ROSSUM ROBOT BUILDING!* MAKE FOR THAT *DOCKING BAY!!*

WITH LASERS ***BLASTING***, THE POLICE ***SWARMED*** INTO THE DOCKING BAY, MAKING ***SHORT*** WORK OF THE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED DESPERADO ***SENTRIES!***

SHORTLY, AS THE COP-ROBS MOPPED UP...!

IT WAS ***JUST*** WAR, ZUD. THERE WAS NOTHING ***PERSONAL*** IN WHAT I ***DID!***

TELL IT TO THE ***EXECUTIONER*** AFTER YOUR TRAIL, BRANDY. THERE'S NOTHING ***PERSONAL*** ABOUT HIS JOB, EITHER

HERE'S YOUR ***TRACER*** BACK SAXON IF I WEREN'T SO EXHAUSTED, I'D ***KNOCK*** YOUR ***BLOCK*** OFF!

PERHAPS THE ***REWARD*** YOU'LL BE GETTING WILL PUT SOME ***SPRING*** BACK INTO YOUR STEP! IT COMES TO QUITE A ***SUM!***

KEEP IT! BETTER YET, ***DIVVY*** IT UP AMONG THE ***COMETEERS***. I DON'T WANT ANY ***PART*** OF IT.

IT MIGHT BE A BETTER IDEA TO ***HANG ON*** TO THE DOUGH, ZUD BECAUSE AT NINE TOMORROW MORNING, ***DOMINO*** IS GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING ***ELSE*** YOU OWN.

YOU KNOW ***QUITE*** A ***BIT*** ABOUT THIS ***MESS***, EH?

I FEEL A MAN SHOULD BE ***ACQUAINTED*** WITH HIS FUTURE ***WIFE'S*** BUSINESS ***AFFAIRS!***

BUT BEFORE ZUD HAD A ***CHANCE*** TO RESPOND, A BENT AND DENTED ROBOT ***WOBBLED*** BACK INTO THE FACTORY!

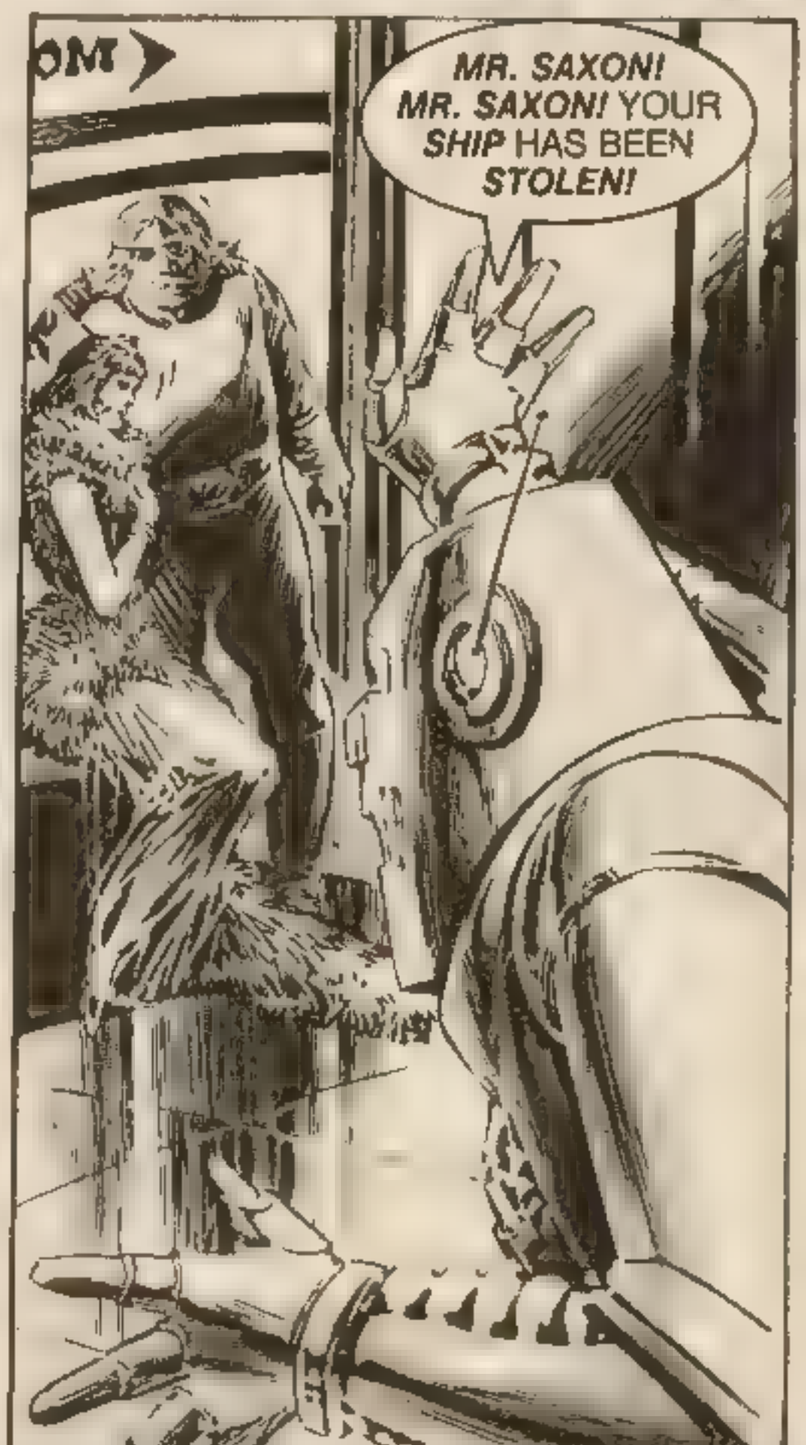
SPARKGAP! YOU'RE A ***HERO*** YOU SAVED US ***ALL!***

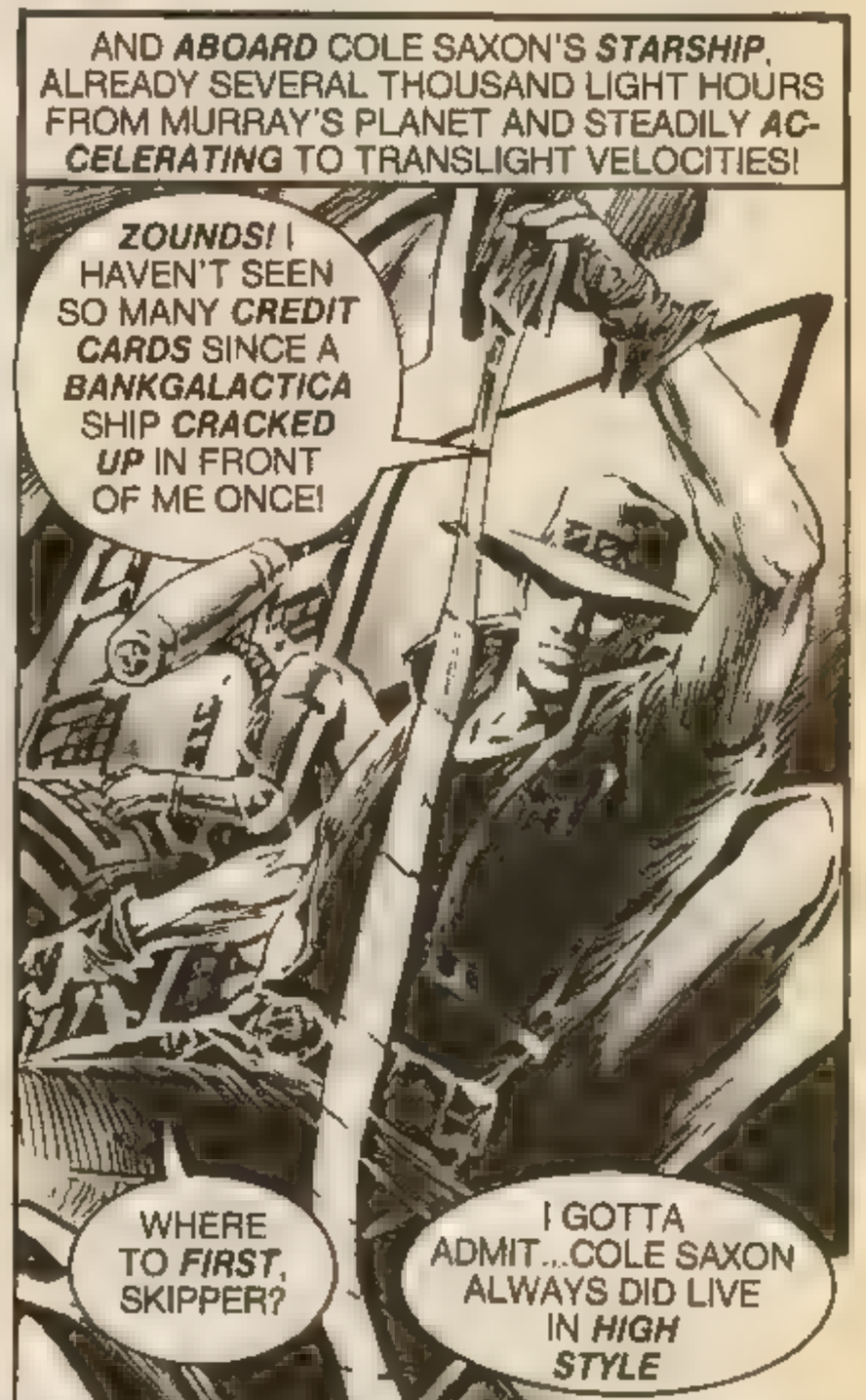
YEAH, I DID OKAY, DIDN'T I?

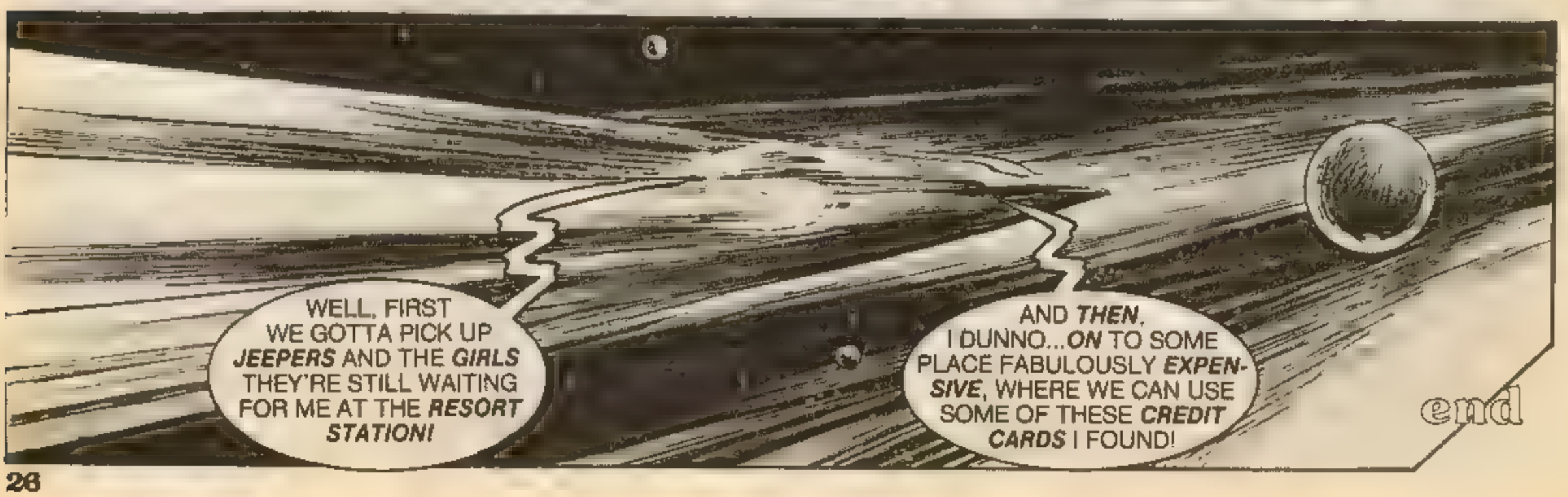
LATER, BACK AT THE CASINO, ZUD, LUCIUS AND CALLISTO SHARED FAREWELLS.
YOU GUYS ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG WITH ME IF YOU LIKE EXCITEMENT ...DANGER. ANYBODY WANT TO SEE HOW MUCH OF IT WE CAN STILL FIND IN THIS RAPIDLY CIVILIZING GALAXY OF OURS?
THANKS, SKIPPER, BUT CALLISTO AND ME FIGURE WE'VE HAD MORE THAN OUR SHARE OF EXCITEMENT LATELY
WE'VE DECIDED TO GO INTO BUSINESS TOGETHER. WE'RE GONNA OPEN A PIZZA SHOP. CALLISTO'LL COOK THE PIES WITH HIS MAGIC, AND I'LL DELIVER THEM!
HOW ABOUT YOU, COMMODORE? CARE TO BECOME IMMORTALIZED WITH ME ON MY FURTHER ADVENTURES?
NO THANKS, ZUD! I'VE DECIDED TO HEAD BACK TO THE RETIREMENT PLANET. ADRAN AND ISHCA HAVE KINDLY OFFERED TO DROP ME THERE.
WE'RE... TAKING THE LONG ROUTE!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS! SAY, WHERE'S SPARKGAP? I HAVEN'T SAID GOODBYE TO HIM YET.
HE'S BACK WORKING ON HIS TOUR JOB HIS BOSS CALLED HIM BACK EARLY, SO HE ASKED ME TO SAY GOODBYE FOR HIM.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER, NOT FAR FROM THE CASINO.
SUPPER STOP, FOLKS. EVERYBODY IN TWENTY MINUTES. DON'T BE LATE OR WE'LL LEAVE WITHOUT YOU.
BUT AS THE PASSENGERS POURED OUT OF THE TOUR BUS, SOMEONE ELSE SLIPPED ABOARD!
ALL I CAN PROMISE YOU ARE HARD TIMES, DANGER LURKING AROUND EVERY CORNER, AND VERY LITTLE REWARD FOR YOUR EFFORTS
BUT TAG ALONG WITH ME AND I PROMISE YOU THINGS WILL NEVER GET DULL.

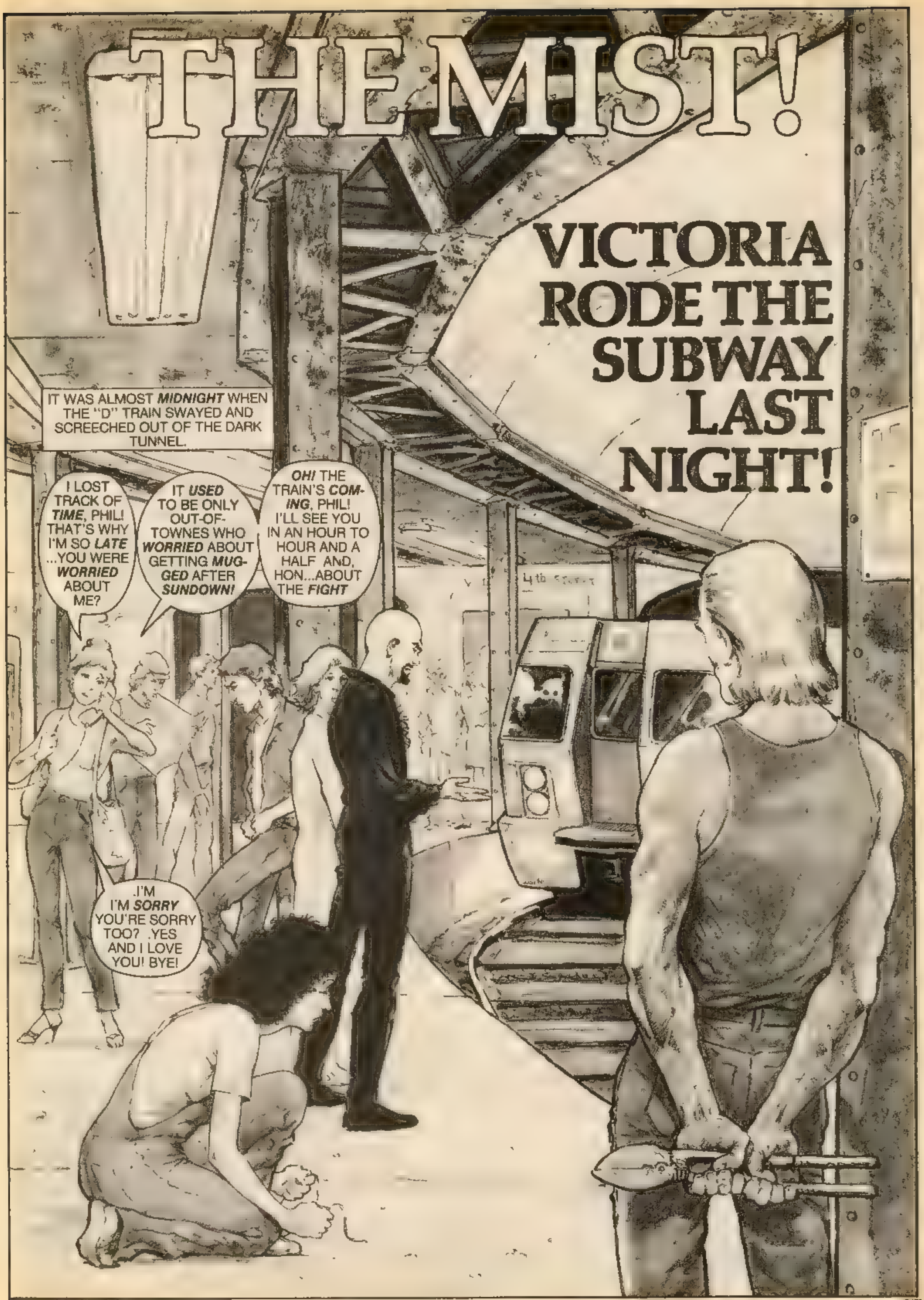
JOE RESTAURANT
I HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH OF THE GALAXY, YOU KNOW, EVEN DURING THE ZOMBIE WAR, I WAS STATIONED IN THIS SAME SYSTEM.
YEAH! MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU DOWN THE ROAD A PIECE.
BUT ZUD! WHAT ABOUT YOUR COURT TRIAL? WHAT ABOUT THE GALAXY DANCER AND YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS?
LET DOMINO AND SAXON HAVE IT ALL. THE MONEY WAS GETTING TO BE A DRAG, ANYWAY. AS FOR A SHIP TO GET US OFF THIS ROCK, I THINK I KNOW JUST WHERE TO GET ONE..

AT 9.46 THE NEXT MORNING, OUTSIDE THE MUNICIPAL COURT-ROOM.
I'LL GIVE ZUD JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES, THEN I'M CALLING THE BOUNTY HUNTERS...!
WHAT ARE YOU SQUIRMING ABOUT?
MY, UH, WALLET'S MISSING I MUST'VE LOST IT IN THE RUCKUS AT THE FACTORY! DAMN ME...ALL MY CREDIT CARDS ARE IN IT!

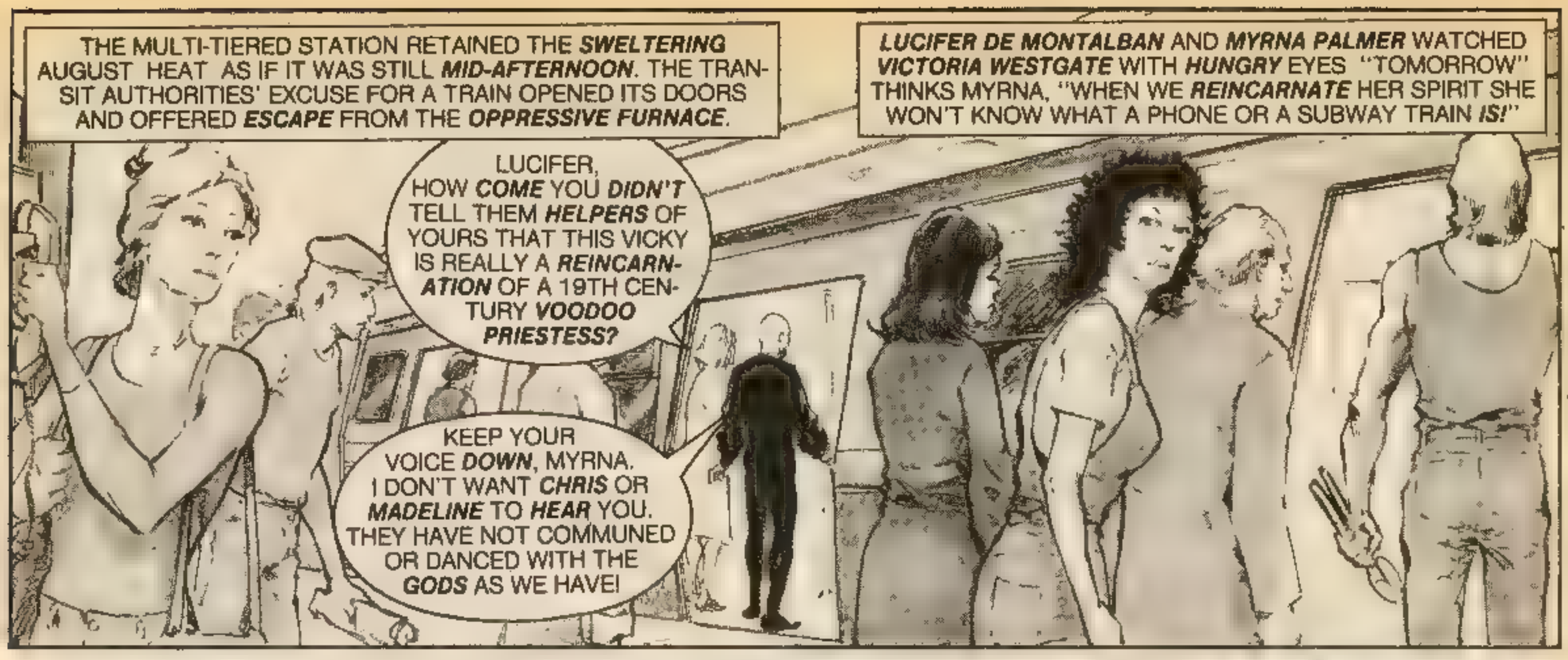

MR. SAXON! MR. SAXON! YOUR SHIP HAS BEEN STOLEN!

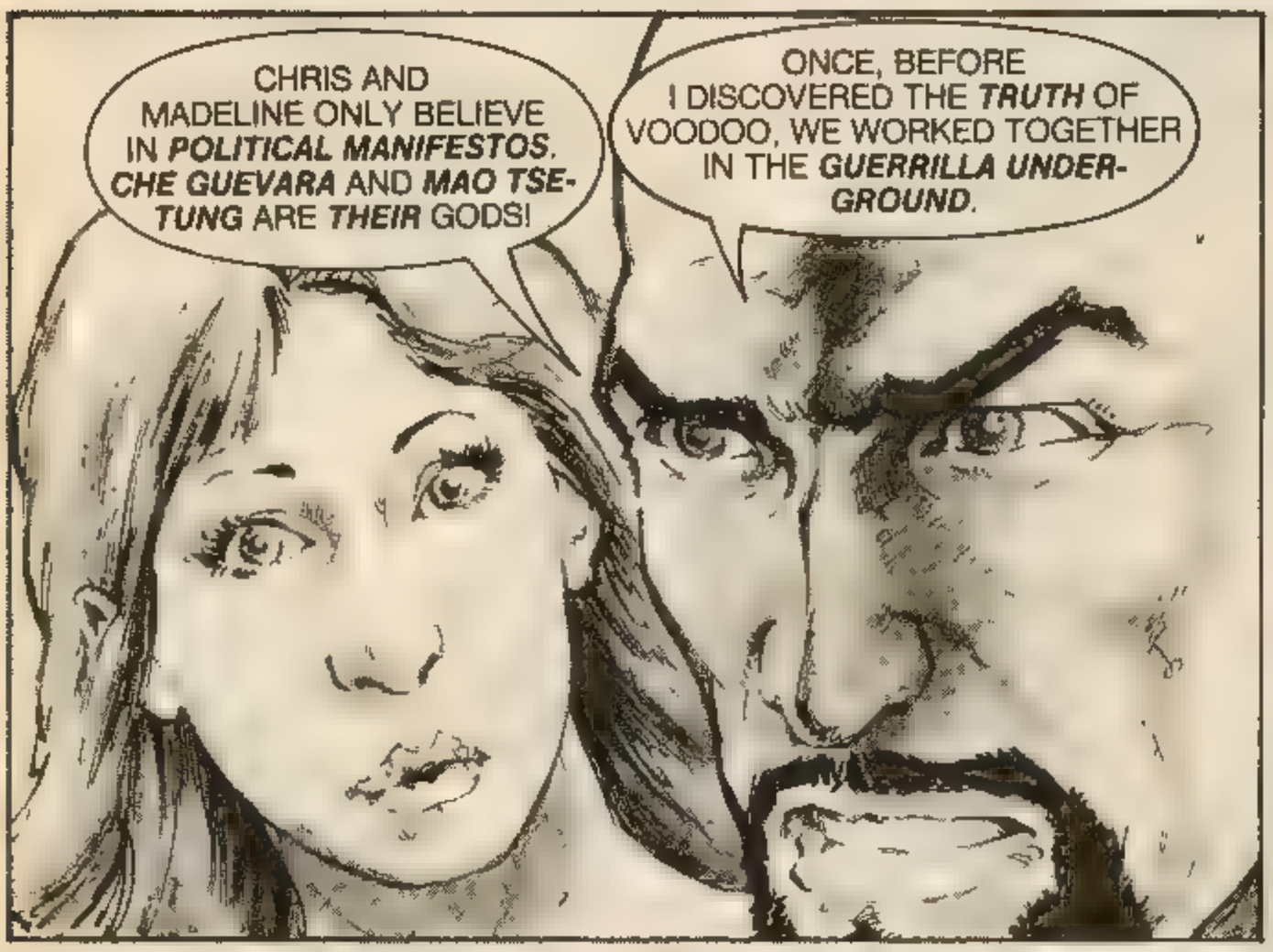

AND ABOARD COLE SAXON'S STARSHIP, ALREADY SEVERAL THOUSAND LIGHT HOURS FROM MURRAY'S PLANET AND STEADILY ACCELERATING TO TRANSLIGHT VELOCITIES!
ZOUNDS! I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY CREDIT CARDS SINCE A BANKGALACTICA SHIP CRACKED UP IN FRONT OF ME ONCE!
WHERE TO FIRST, SKIPPER?
I GOTTA ADMIT...COLE SAXON ALWAYS DID LIVE IN HIGH STYLE

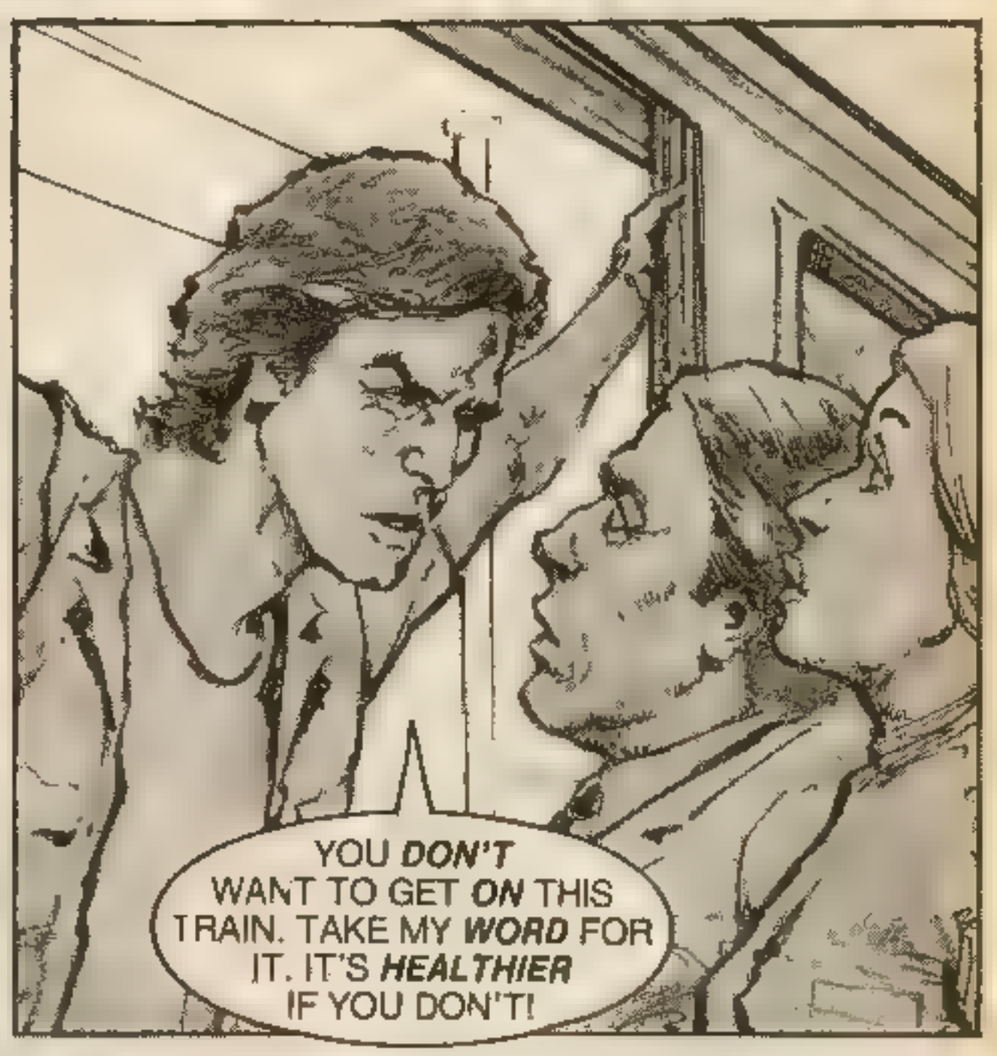

WELL, FIRST WE GOTTA PICK UP JEEPERS AND THE GIRLS THEY'RE STILL WAITING FOR ME AT THE RESORT STATION!
AND THEN, I DUNNO...ON TO SOME PLACE FABULOUSLY EXPENSIVE, WHERE WE CAN USE SOME OF THESE CREDIT CARDS I FOUND!
end

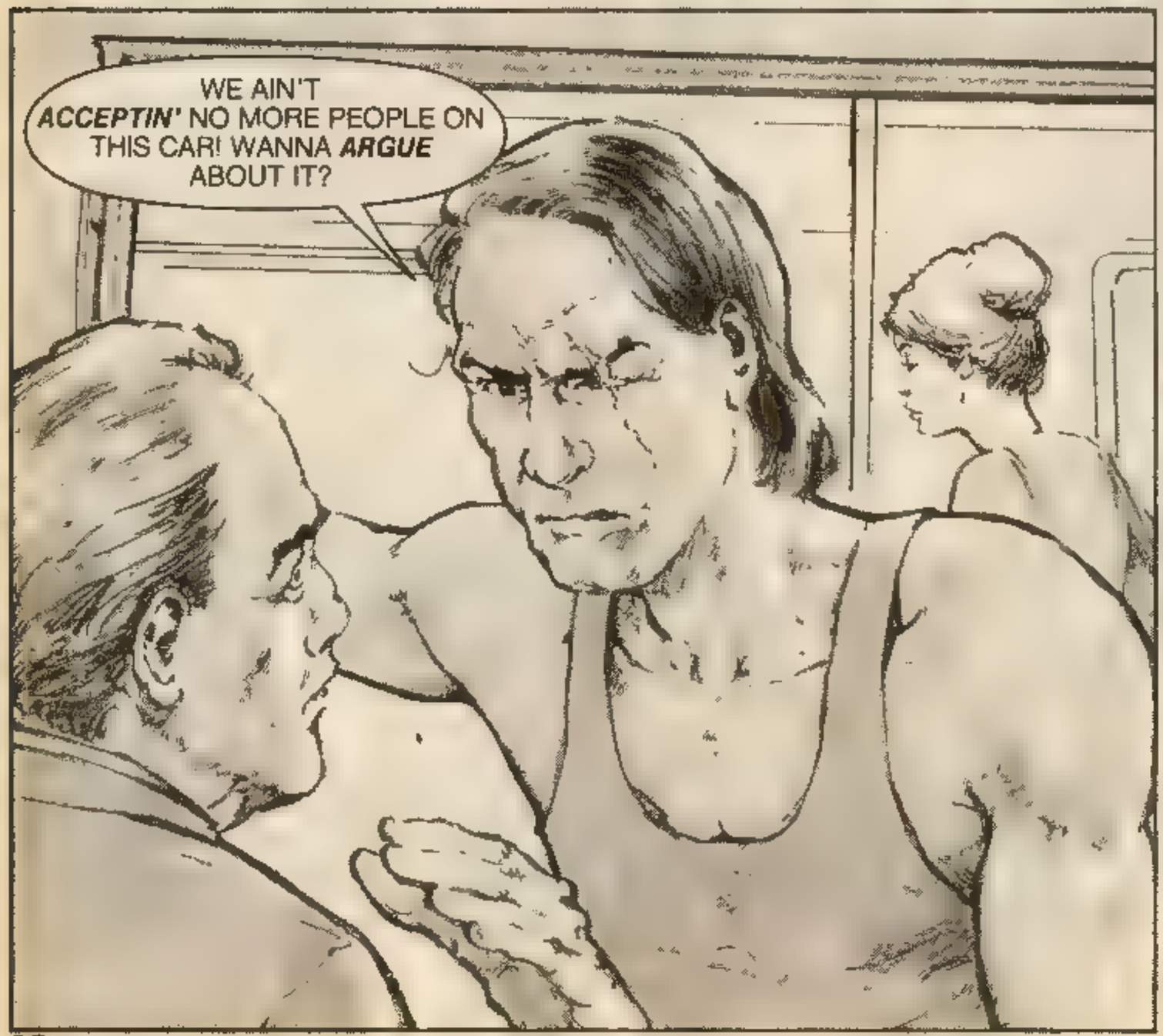


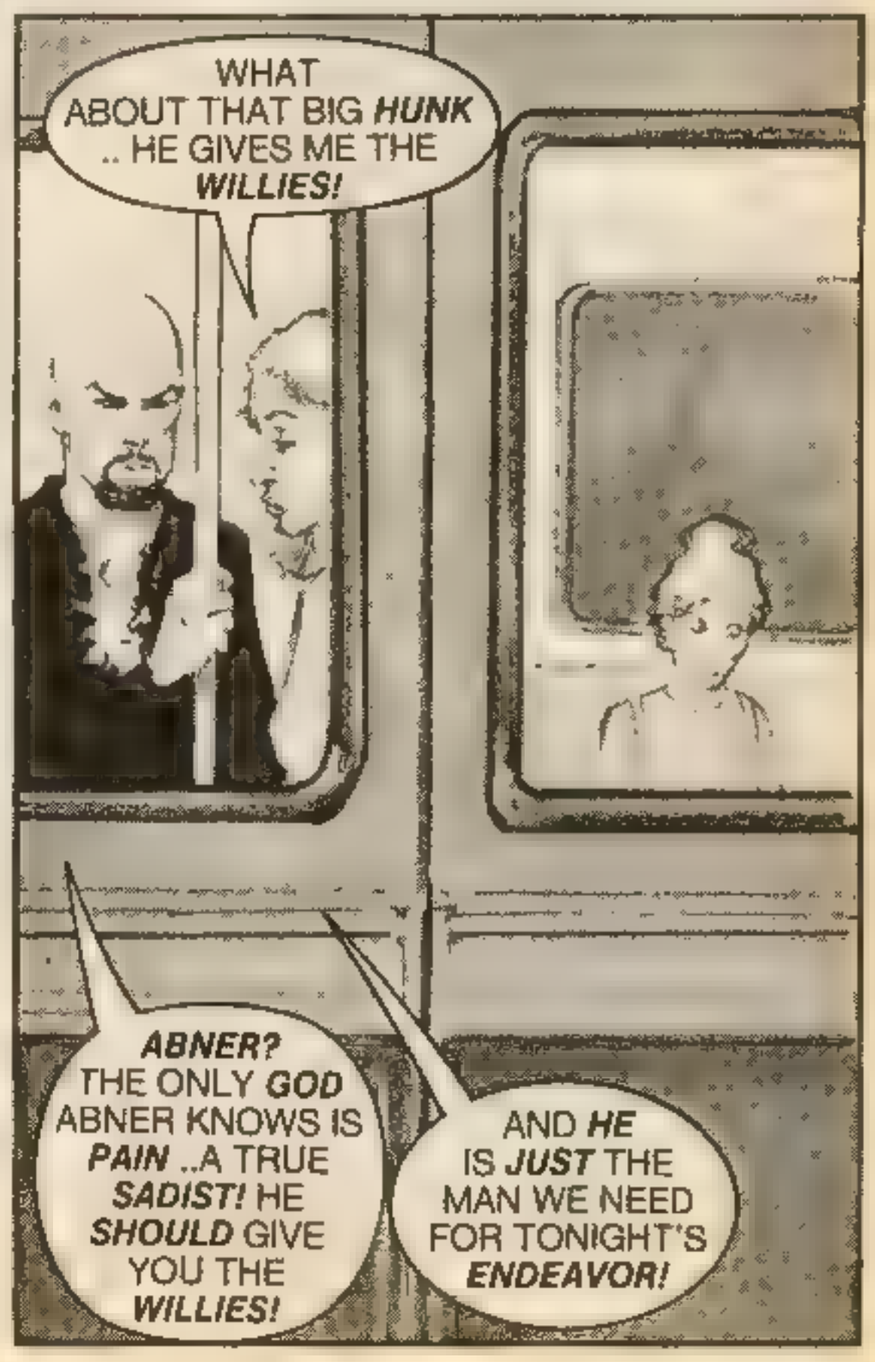
Author:DON McGREGOR/Illustrator:VAL MAYERIK


THE MULTI-TIERED STATION RETAINED THE SWELTERING AUGUST HEAT AS IF IT WAS STILL MID-AFTERNOON. THE TRANSIT AUTHORITIES' EXCUSE FOR A TRAIN OPENED ITS DOORS AND OFFERED ESCAPE FROM THE OPPRESSIVE FURNACE.
LUCIFER DE MONTALBAN AND MYRNA PALMER WATCHED VICTORIA WESTGATE WITH HUNGRY EYES "TOMORROW" THINKS MYRNA, "WHEN WE REINCARNATE HER SPIRIT SHE WON'T KNOW WHAT A PHONE OR A SUBWAY TRAIN IS!"
LUCIFER, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TELL THEM HELPERS OF YOURS THAT THIS VICKY IS REALLY A REINCARNATION OF A 19TH CENTURY VOODOO PRIESTESS?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, MYRNA. I DON'T WANT CHRIS OR MADELINE TO HEAR YOU. THEY HAVE NOT COMMUNED OR DANCED WITH THE GODS AS WE HAVE!

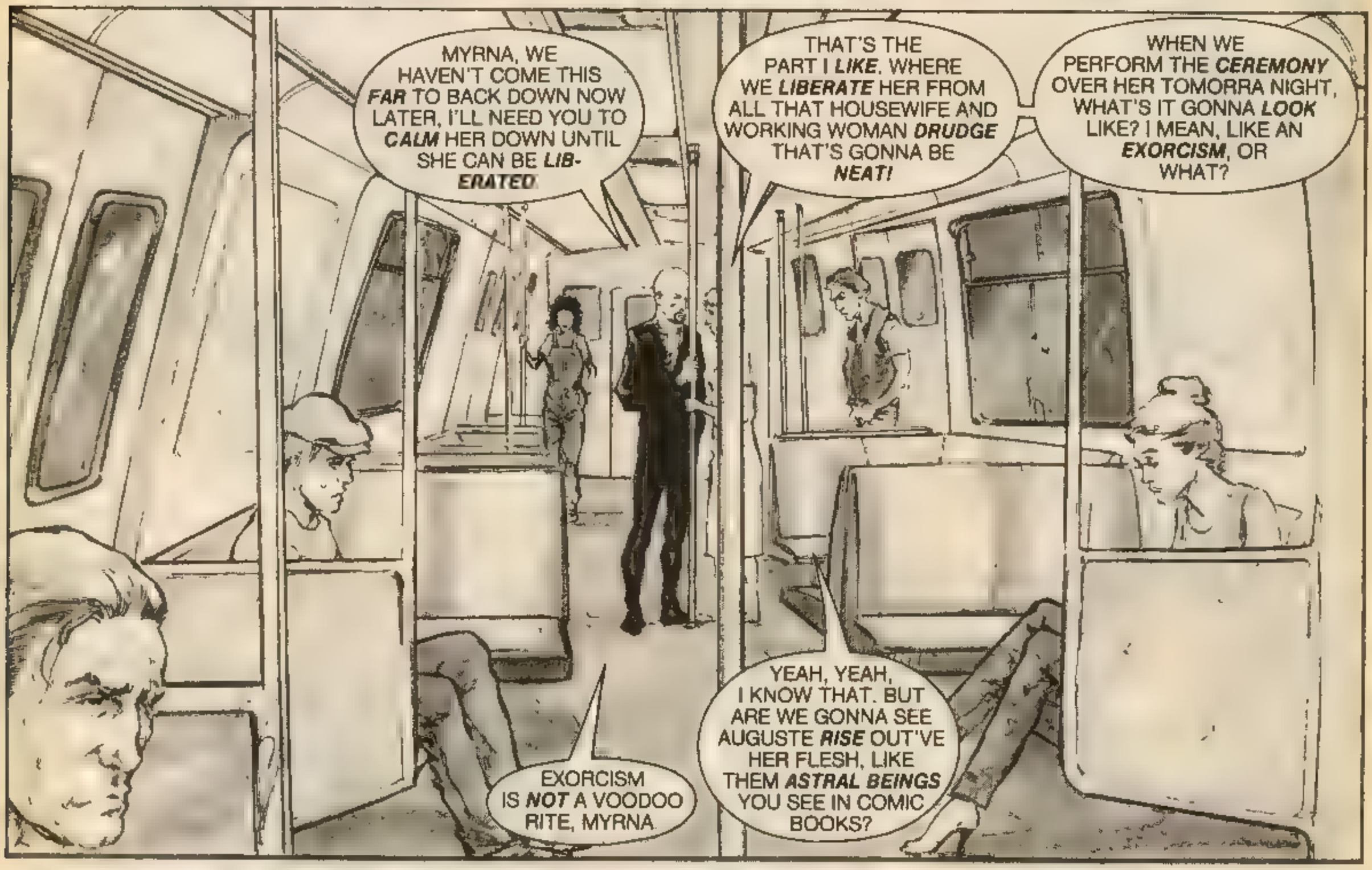

CHRIS AND MADELINE ONLY BELIEVE IN POLITICAL MANIFESTOS. CHE GUEVARA AND MAO TSE-TUNG ARE THEIR GODS!
ONCE, BEFORE I DISCOVERED THE TRUTH OF VOODOO, WE WORKED TOGETHER IN THE GUERRILLA UNDERGROUND.


YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ON THIS TRAIN. TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. IT'S HEALTHIER IF YOU DON'T!


WE AIN'T ACCEPTIN' NO MORE PEOPLE ON THIS CAR! WANNA ARGUE ABOUT IT?

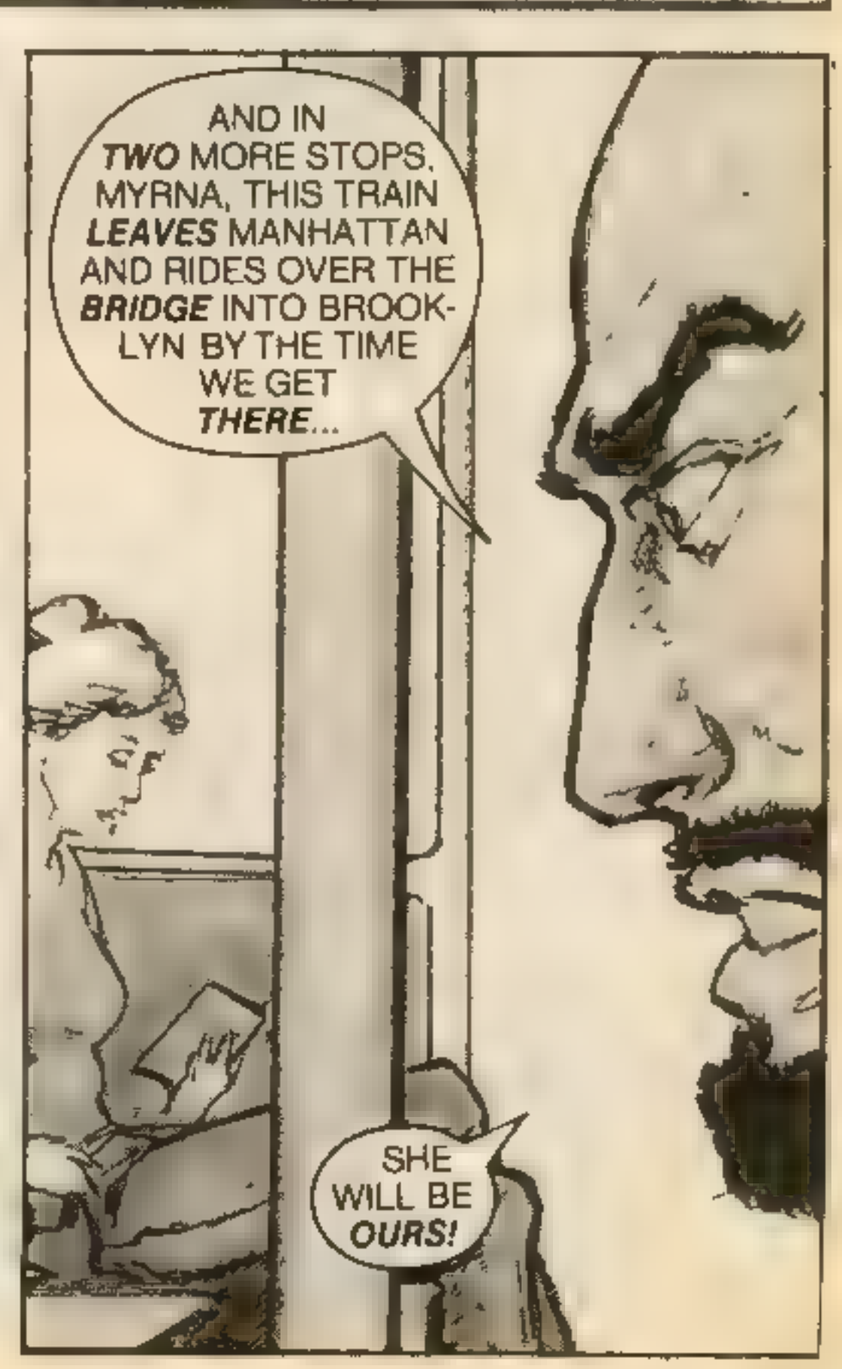

WHAT ABOUT THAT BIG HUNK .. HE GIVES ME THE WILLIES!
ABNER? THE ONLY GOD ABNER KNOWS IS PAIN ..A TRUE SADIST! HE SHOULD GIVE YOU THE WILLIES!
AND HE IS JUST THE MAN WE NEED FOR TONIGHT'S ENDEAVOR!

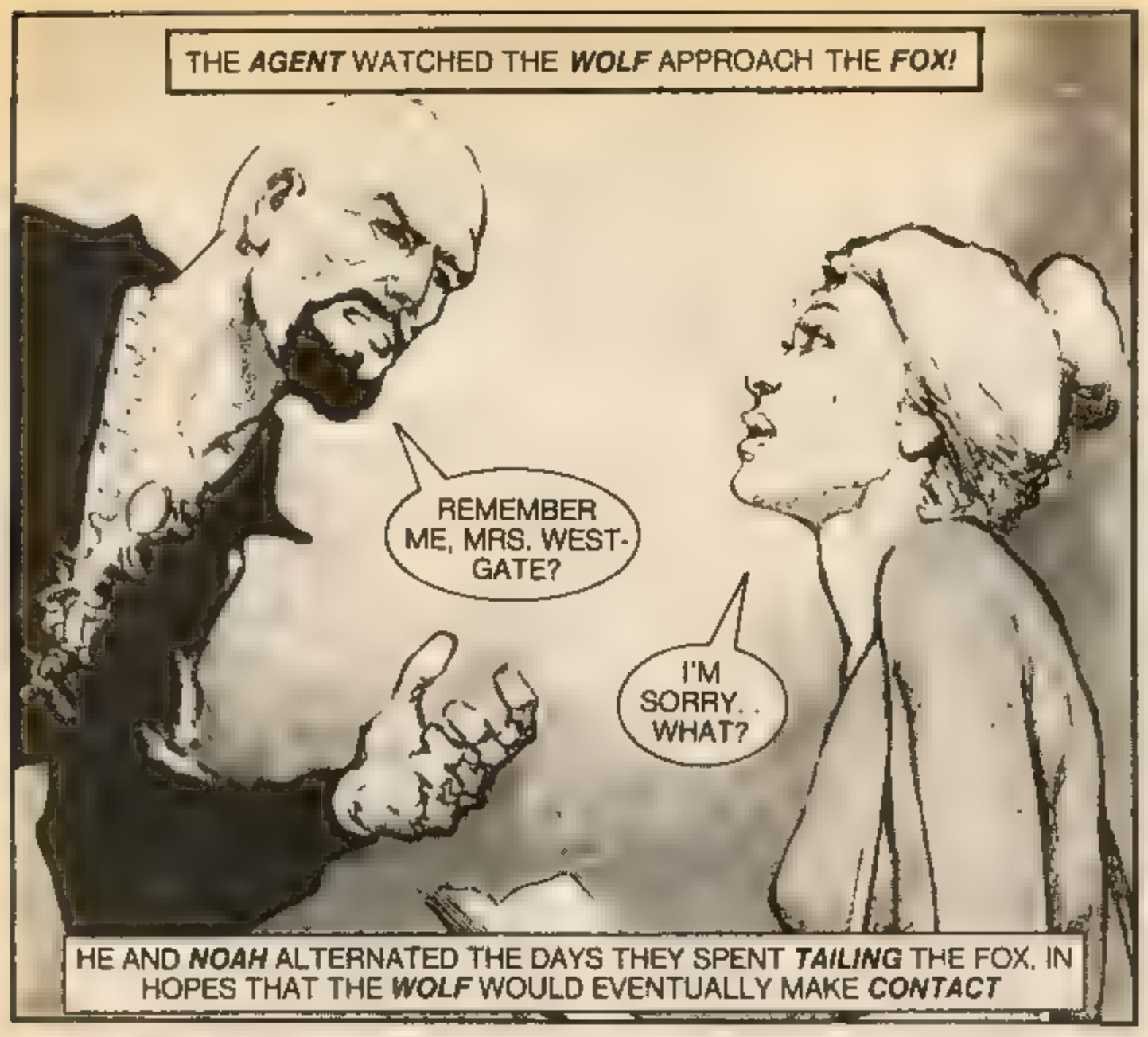
RUMBLE
TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT WE *GET* HER! *JEEZ!* I'M SO *NERVOUS* I'M AFRAID I'M GONNA *THROW UP!*

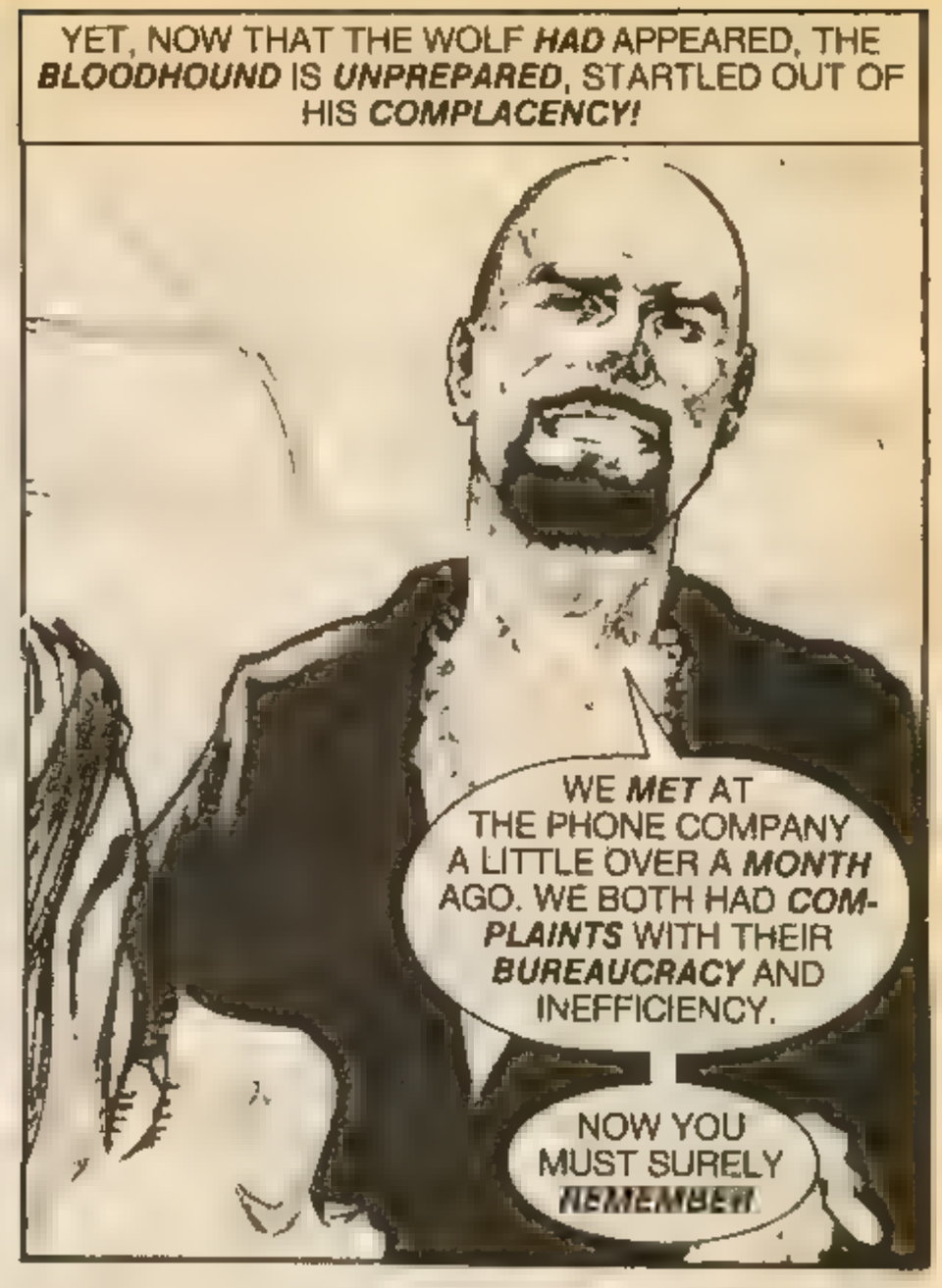

MYRNA, WE HAVEN'T COME THIS *FAR* TO BACK DOWN NOW LATER, I'LL NEED YOU TO *CALM* HER DOWN UNTIL SHE CAN BE *LIB-ERATED*
EXORCISM IS *NOT* A VOODOO RITE, MYRNA
THAT'S THE PART I *LIKE*, WHERE WE *LIBERATE* HER FROM ALL THAT HOUSEWIFE AND WORKING WOMAN *DRUDGE* THAT'S GONNA BE *NEAT!*
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW THAT. BUT ARE WE GONNA SEE AUGUSTE *RISE* OUT'VE HER FLESH, LIKE THEM *ASTRAL BEINGS* YOU SEE IN COMIC BOOKS?
WHEN WE PERFORM THE *CEREMONY* OVER HER TOMORRA NIGHT, WHAT'S IT GONNA *LOOK* LIKE? I MEAN, LIKE AN *EXORCISM*, OR WHAT?

TRY NOT TO *THINK* ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. THAT WAY IT'LL BE A *BEAUTIFUL SUR-PRISE* TO YOU WHEN YOU SEE THE *RITES* THAT WILL RELEASE HER
I JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T *SCREWED UP* AND SHE REALLY IS JUST A *NO-BODY* FROM BROOKLYN WITH A HUSBAND AND A KID!

SHE *ISN'T!* SHE'S AUGUSTE! I KNEW IT THE MOMENT I *FIRST* SPOTTED HER

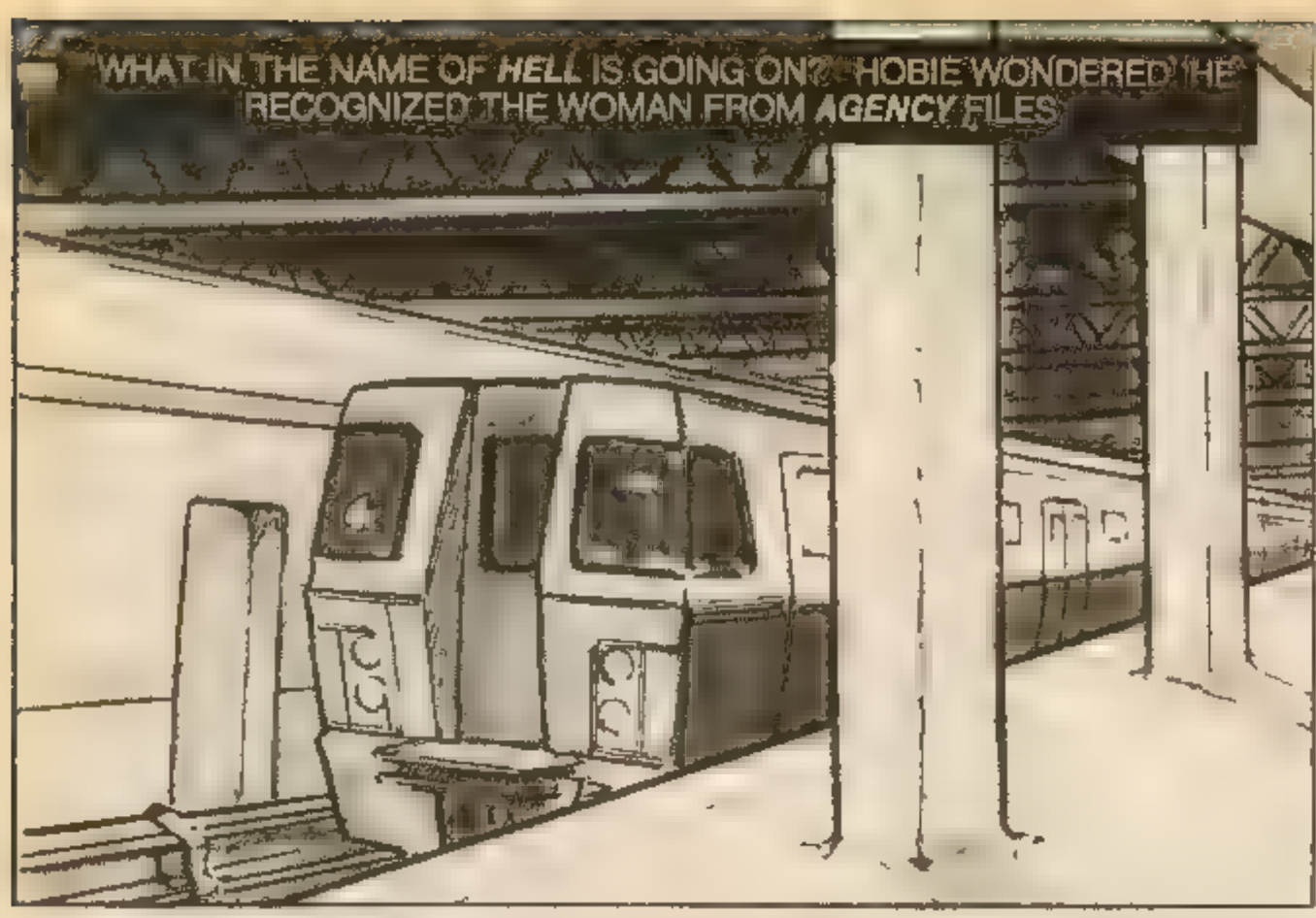

AND IN *TWO* MORE STOPS, MYRNA, THIS TRAIN *LEAVES* MANHATTAN AND RIDES OVER THE *BRIDGE* INTO BROOK-LYN BY THE TIME WE GET *THERE...*
SHE WILL BE *OURS!*


THE *AGENT* WATCHED THE *WOLF* APPROACH THE *FOX!*
REMEMBER ME, MRS. WESTGATE?
I'M SORRY.. WHAT?
HE AND *NOAH* ALTERNATED THE DAYS THEY SPENT *TAILING* THE FOX, IN HOPES THAT THE *WOLF* WOULD EVENTUALLY MAKE *CONTACT*

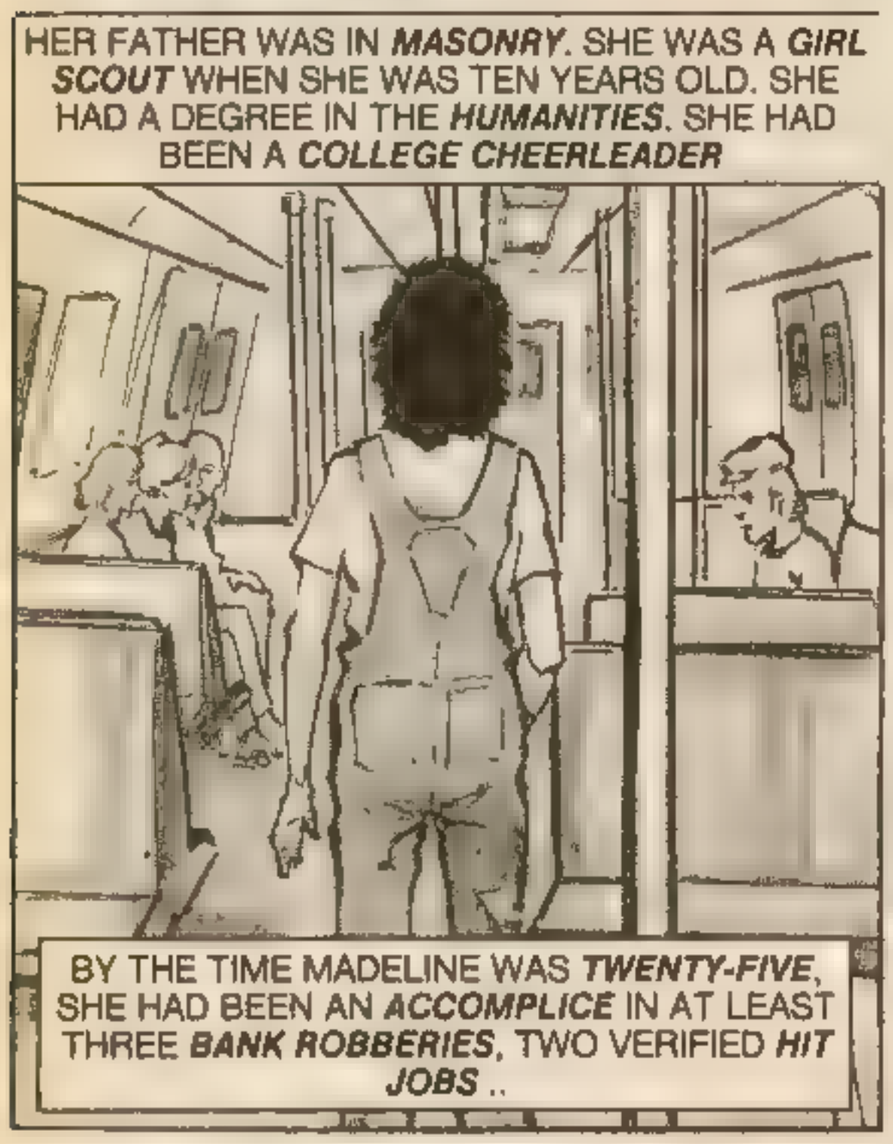

YET, NOW THAT THE WOLF *HAD* APPEARED, THE *BLOODHOUND* IS *UNPREPARED*, STARTLED OUT OF HIS *COMPLACENCY!*
WE *MET* AT THE PHONE COMPANY A LITTLE OVER A *MONTH* AGO. WE BOTH HAD *COMPLAINTS* WITH THEIR *BUREAUCRACY* AND INEFFICIENCY.
NOW YOU MUST SURELY *REMEMBER!*

UHHH... KIND'VE VAGUELY.
IT'S A *SMALL* WORLD, ISN'T IT? US MEETING AGAIN LIKE THIS. ALMOST AS IF
.. AS IF IT WERE *ORDAINED*... BY THE GODS!

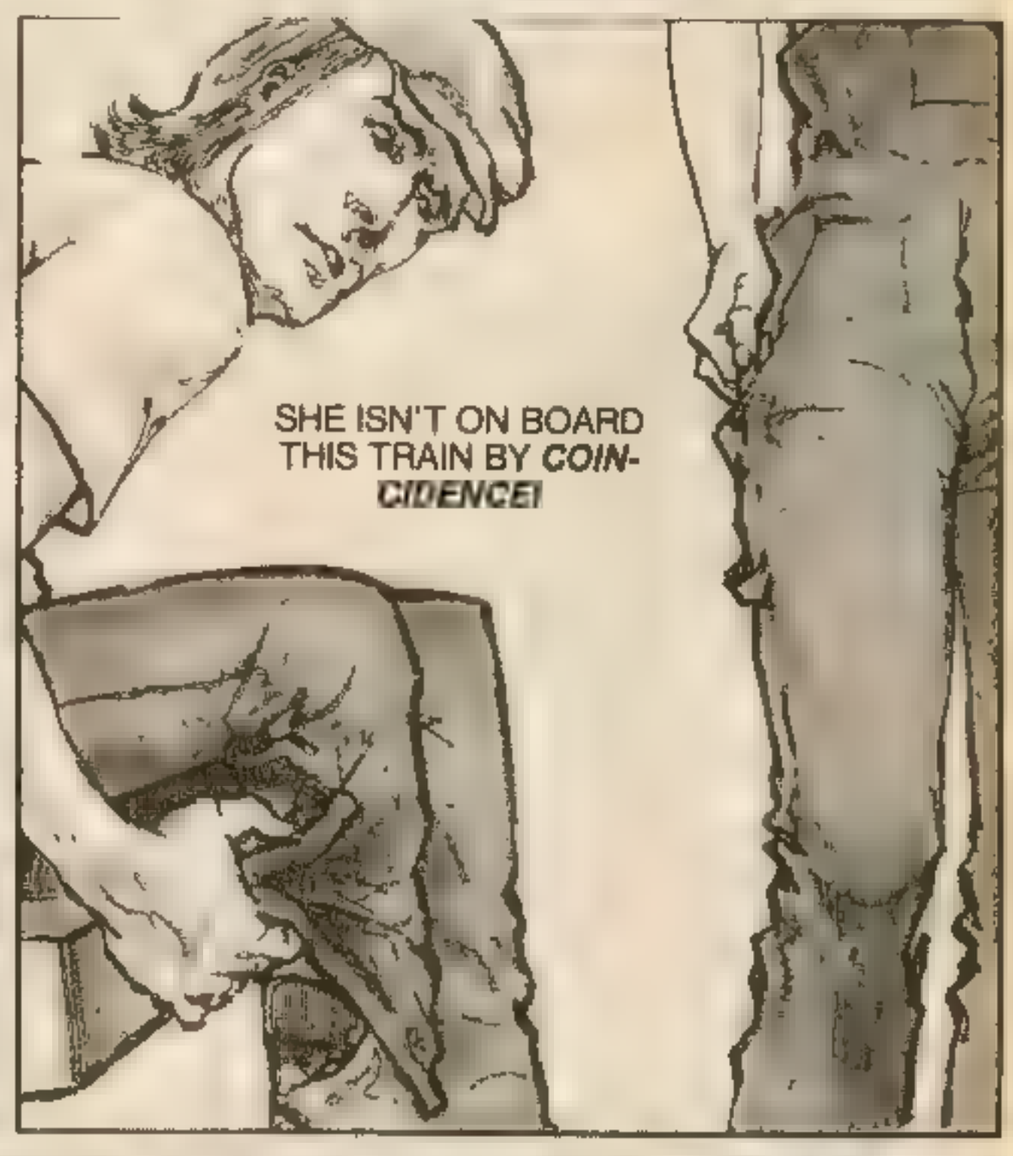
DON'T YOU GET THAT *FEELING* SOMETIMES? THAT THE GODS REACH OUT AND *GUIDE* OUR MEETINGS AND PARTINGS?
THERE WEREN'T ONLY *BLOODHOUNDS*, *FOXES*, AND *WOLVES* ON THIS TRAIN, HOBIE REALIZED.
THERE WERE *JACKALS* AS WELL!

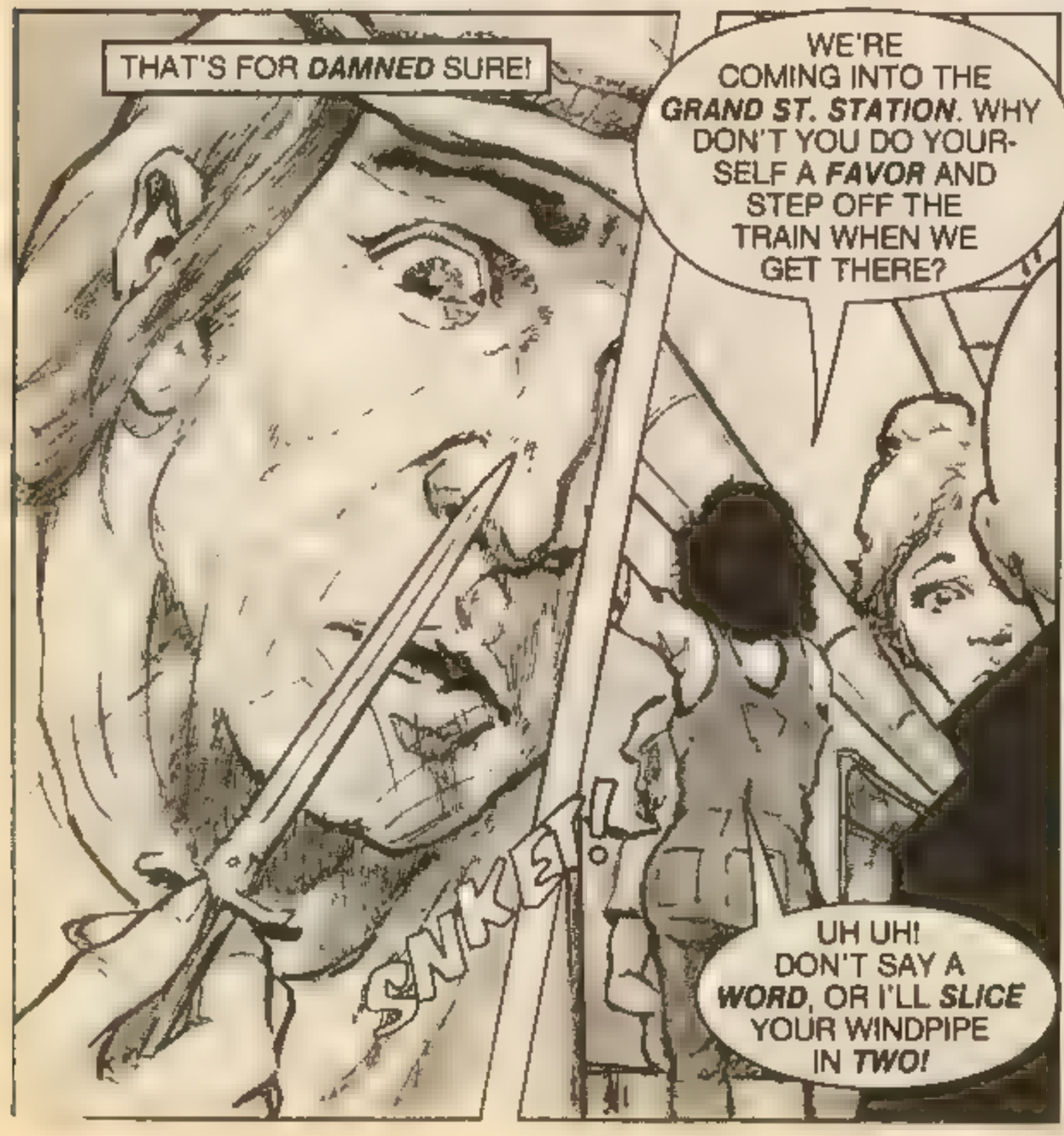

WHAT IN THE NAME OF *HELL* IS GOING ON? HOBIE WONDERED. HE RECOGNIZED THE WOMAN FROM *AGENCY* FILES.

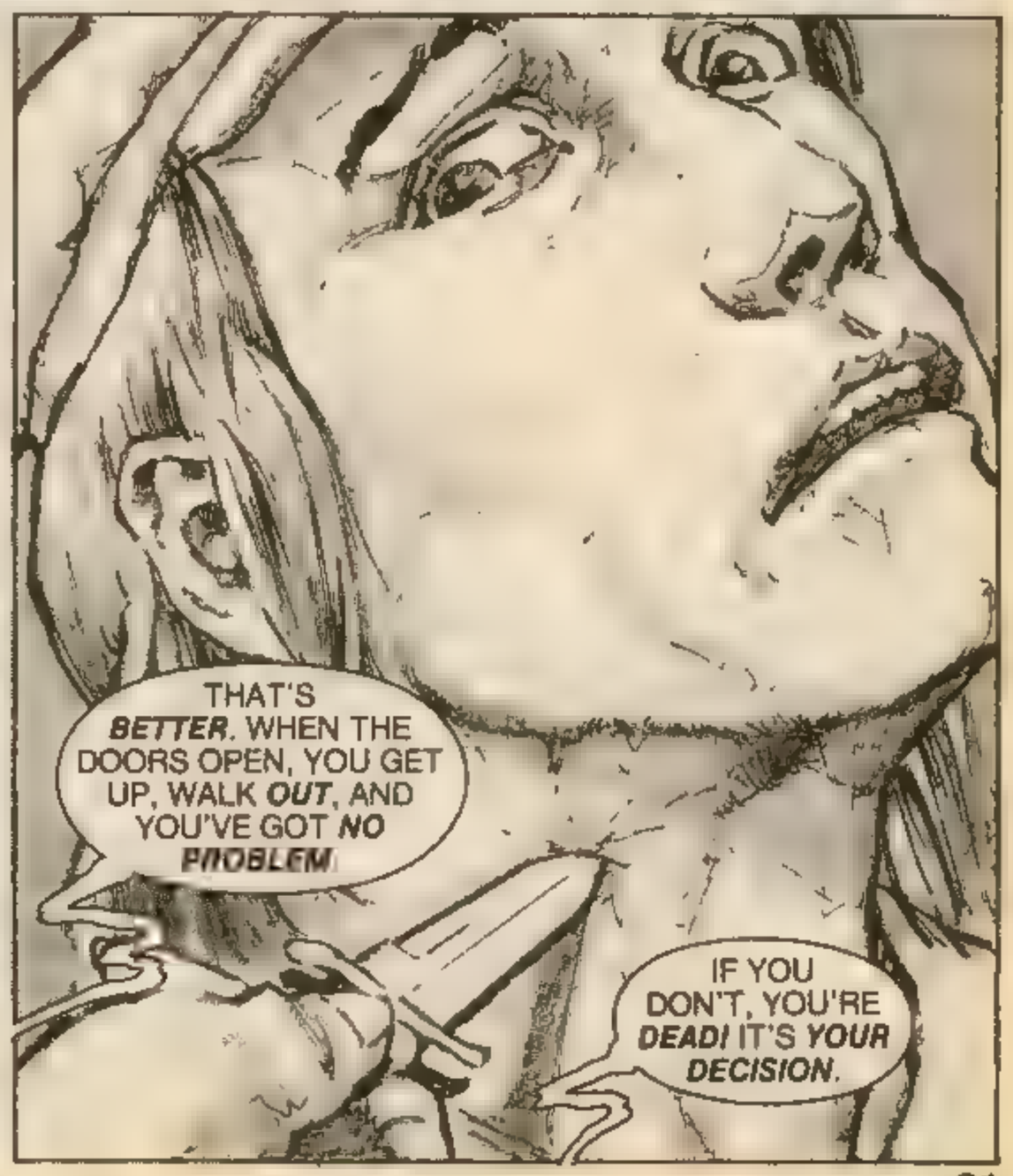
MADELINE CARR!

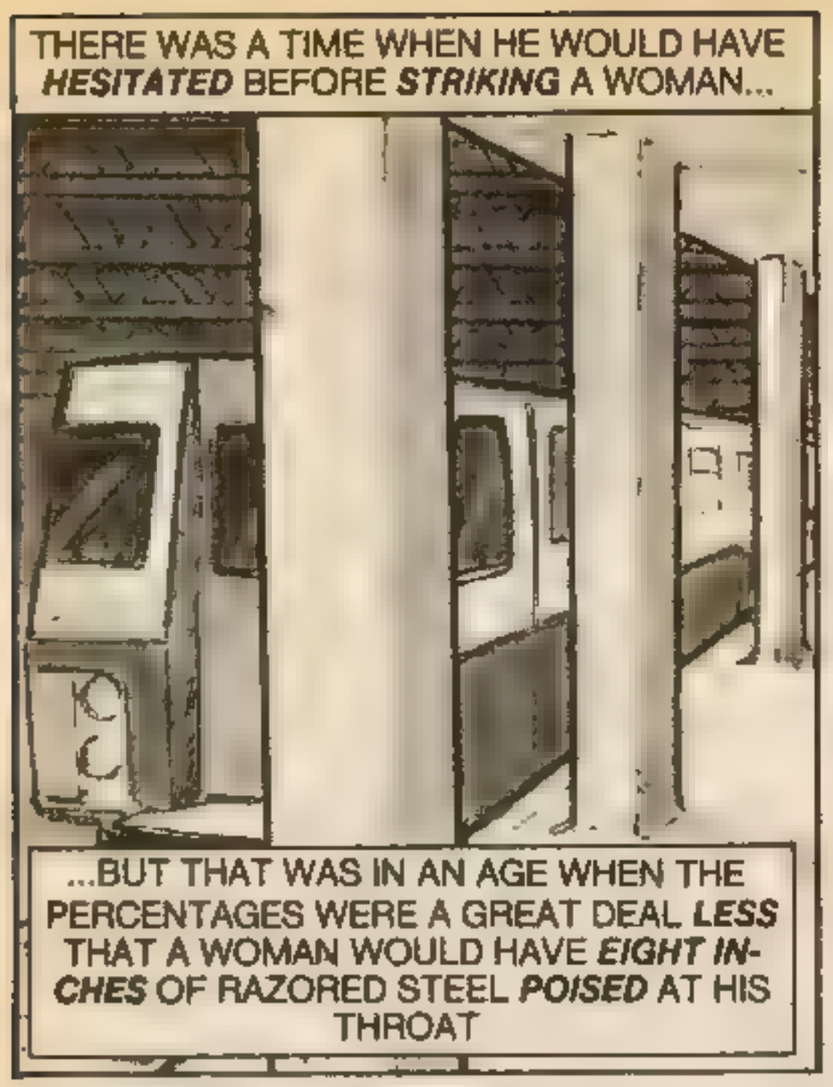

HER FATHER WAS IN *MASONRY*. SHE WAS A *GIRL SCOUT* WHEN SHE WAS TEN YEARS OLD. SHE HAD A DEGREE IN THE *HUMANITIES*. SHE HAD BEEN A *COLLEGE CHEERLEADER*
BY THE TIME MADELINE WAS *TWENTY-FIVE*, SHE HAD BEEN AN *ACCOMPLICE* IN AT LEAST THREE *BANK ROBBERIES*, TWO VERIFIED *HIT JOBS* ..

...AND SEVERAL *GUERRILLA BOMBINGS*.


SHE ISN'T ON BOARD THIS TRAIN BY *COIN-CIDENCE!*


THAT'S FOR *DAMNED* SURE!
WE'RE COMING INTO THE *GRAND ST. STATION*. WHY DON'T YOU DO YOUR-SELF A *FAVOR* AND STEP OFF THE TRAIN WHEN WE GET THERE?
SNKK!
UH UH! DON'T SAY A *WORD*, OR I'LL *SLICE* YOUR WINDPIPE IN *TWO!*


THAT'S *BETTER*. WHEN THE DOORS OPEN, YOU GET UP, WALK *OUT*, AND YOU'VE GOT *NO PROBLEM*.
IF YOU DON'T, YOU'RE *DEAD!* IT'S *YOUR DECISION*.


THERE WAS A TIME WHEN HE WOULD HAVE *HESITATED* BEFORE *STRIKING* A WOMAN...
...BUT THAT WAS IN AN AGE WHEN THE PERCENTAGES WERE A GREAT DEAL *LESS* THAT A WOMAN WOULD HAVE *EIGHT INCHES* OF RAZORED STEEL *POISED* AT HIS THROAT

THUK!
WHAP

DID YOU SEE THAT?
CRACK!
BEFORE HE COULD REACH FOR THE *GUN* SHEATHED IN HIS ANKLE HOLSTER, MADELINE'S FIST *SMASHED* HIS NOSE!

HOBIE HAD A FLASH OF THE *OPEN DOORS* LOOKING OUT ONTO A STATION PLASTERED WITH MOVIE POSTERS *SHOUTING* OF DEATH AND VIOLENCE...!
MADELINE! GET CLEAR OF HIM! LET ME GET A *SHOT* AT *HIM!*

BUT THE DOORS CLOSED *UNNOTICED, UNUSED* AS THE TRAIN GROANED AND SHUDDERED INTO *MOTION!*
THE *LIGHTS* OF THAT ALIEN, SANE WORLD *DISAPPEARED!*

THE *LOA* INSIDE LUCIFER'S HEAD *CURSED!* THE LOA VISITED HIS MIND QUITE *FREQUENTLY* THESE DAYS. IT RANTED, SUPERVISED, COMMANDED, AND AT TIMES ENSLAVED THE PERSONALITY OF THE BODY IT HAD *INVADED!*

SOMEBODY PULL THE *EMERGENCY CORD!*

IT'S *BEST* NOT TO GET INVOLVED, MRS. WESTGATE. YOU NEVER KNOW HOW *TRAGICALLY* IT MIGHT END!

GRIPES! EVERY ONE OF YOUR PLANS FOULS UP *ROYALLY*, LUCIFER!

HOBIE COULDN'T BREATHE. THE BLOOD IN HIS NOSTRILS *DRAINED* INTO THE BACK OF HIS THROAT, *CHOKING* HIM.

CRUNCH!

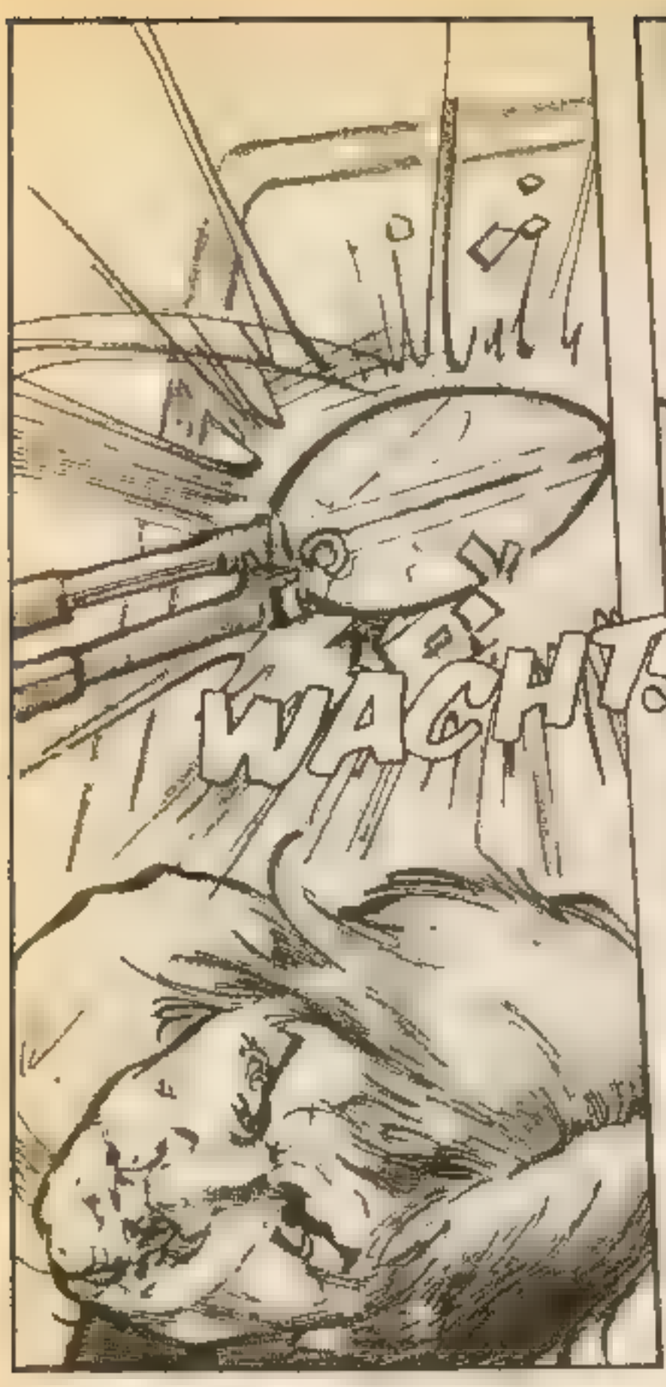
MADELINE'S TEETH RIPPED OPEN HIS *KNUCKLES* AS HIS FIST *SPLINTERED* ONE OF HER FRONT TEETH.

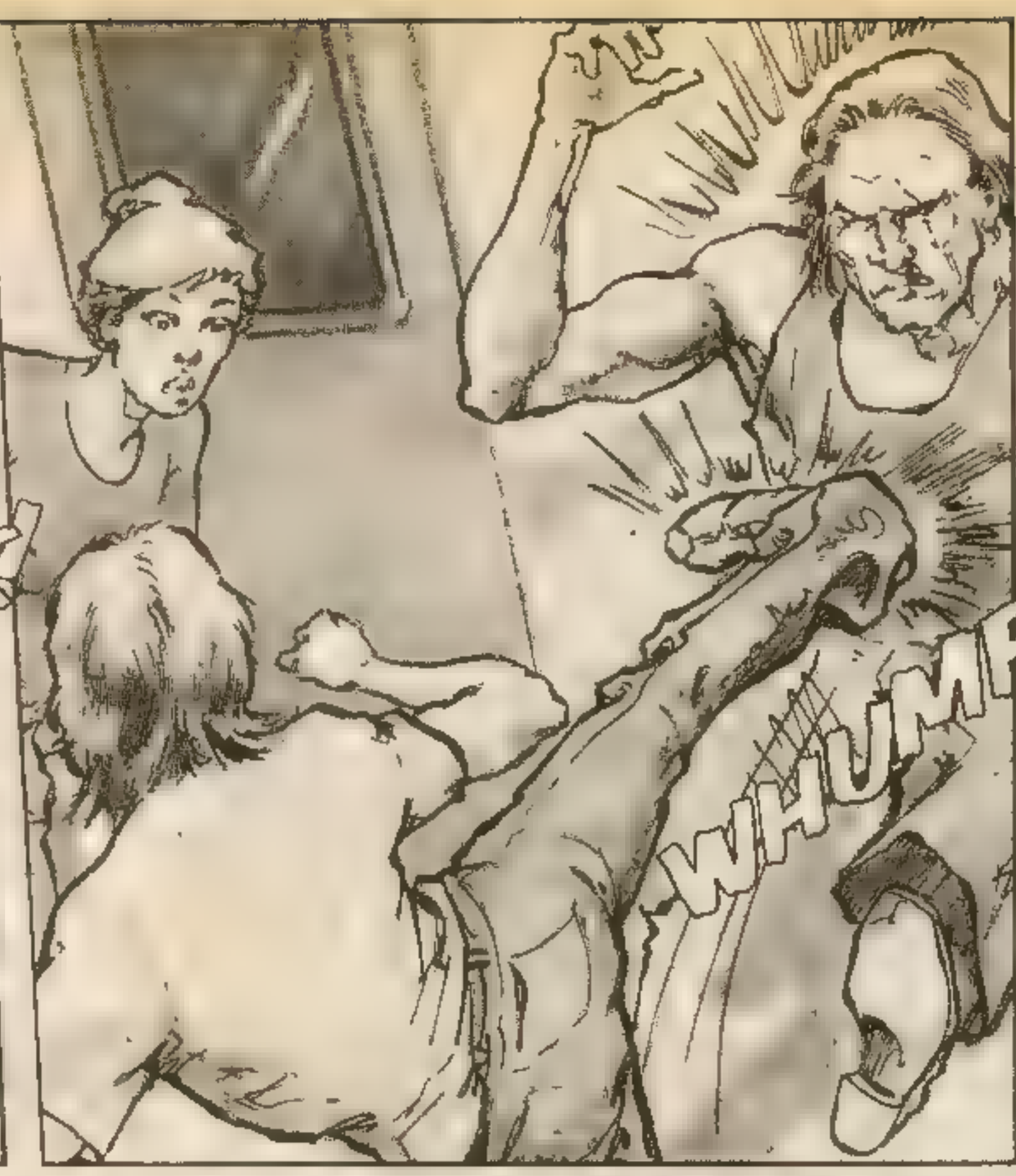
I'M NOT GOING TO STAND HERE AND *WATCH* THIS! SHE HAD A *KNIFE*, FOR GOD'S SAKE! SHE *CUT* HIM WITH IT!

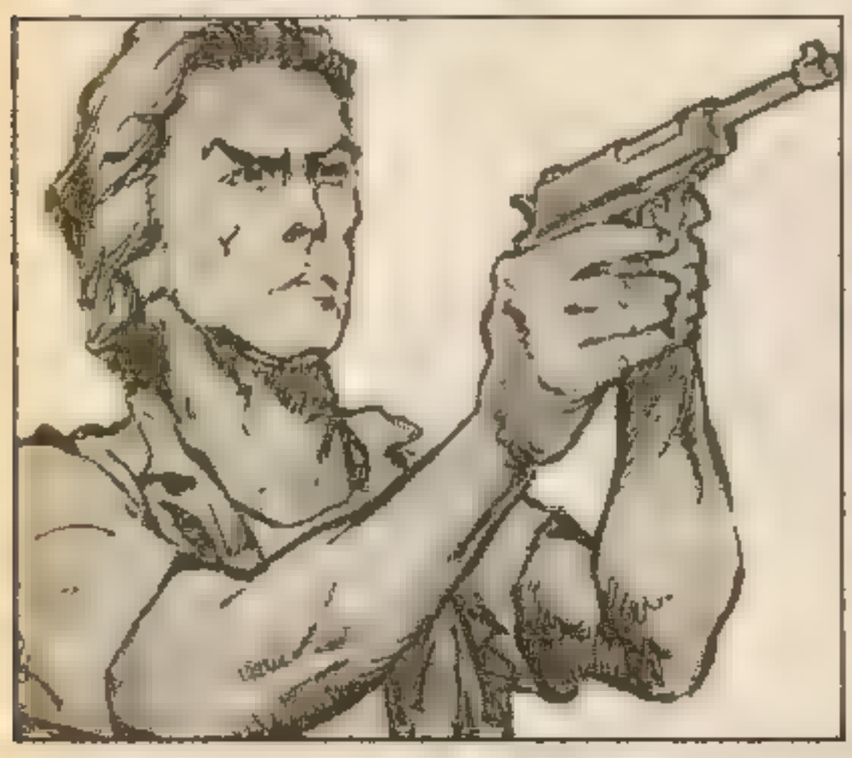
VICKI *RAN* THROUGH THE GREY, CHAOTIC *GLOOM*. HER FINGERS *REACHED* ACHINGLY FOR THE *EMERGENCY CHORD!*

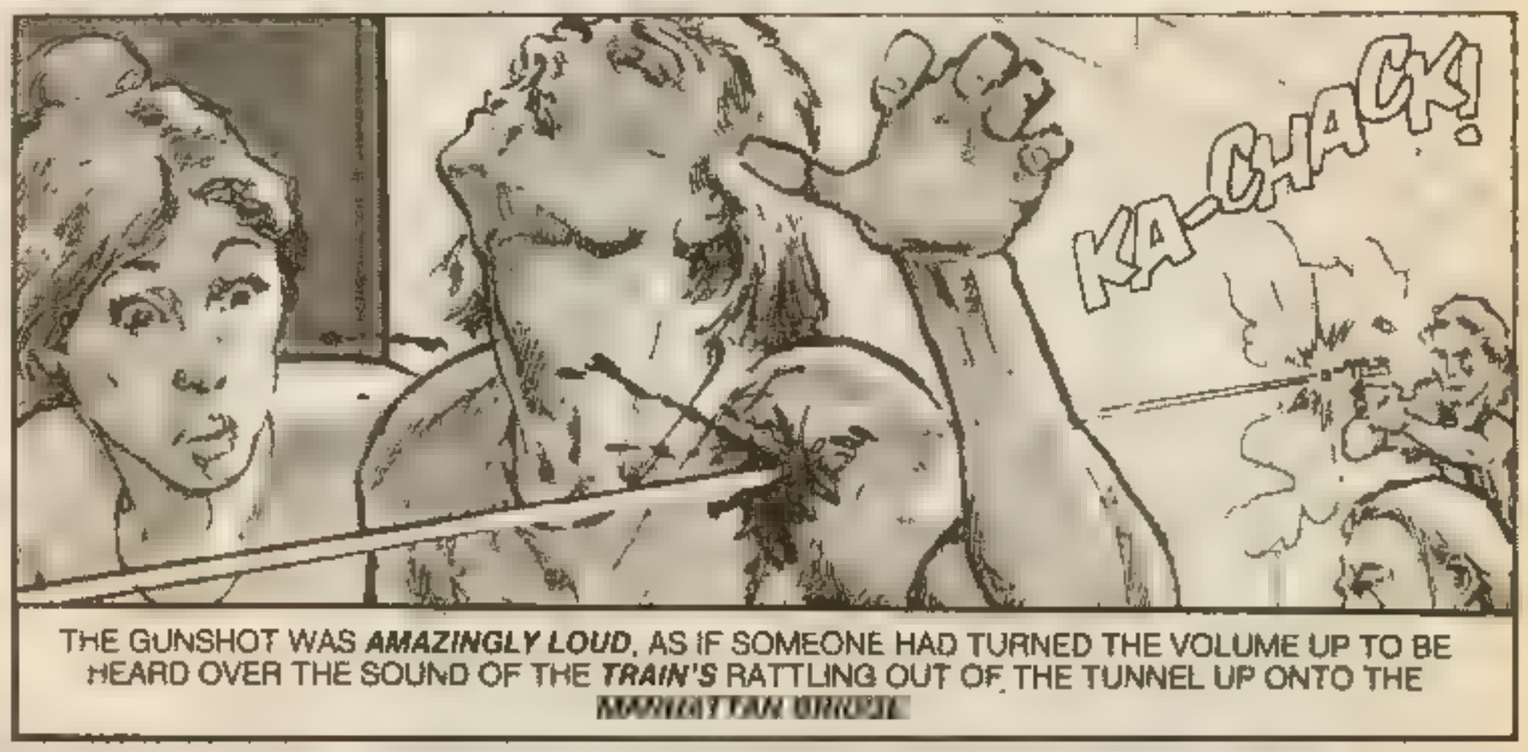
SUDDENLY, SHE SAW A PAIR OF *METAL SHEARS* THRUSTING FOR HER *HAND!*

VICKY LOOKED UNCOMPREHENDINGLY AT THE CHAIN FALLING LIMPLY OVER HER FIST.
SNIPT!
...AND THEN REALIZED HER FINGERS COULD HAVE BEEN SEVERED BY THE COLD, SLICING STEEL!
THE VISION OF HER HAND, MUTILATED, REGISTERED A NEW SURGE OF FEAR AS WELL AS
HEY, LADY! YOU KNOW WHAT?
...OUTRAGE!
I GOT ME A LAWYER SAYS HE CAN GET ANYBODY OFF A RAPE CHARGE
WHATTA YOU THINK OF THEM APPLES, LA
WHAK!!
VICKY SAW THE BLOOD SHE HAD DRAWN, AND SHE STOPPED!
THER HESITANCY WAS A HUMAN RESPONSE, ONE INHERENT IN PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT USED TO THE INTRUSION OF VIOLENCE INTO THEIR LIVES.

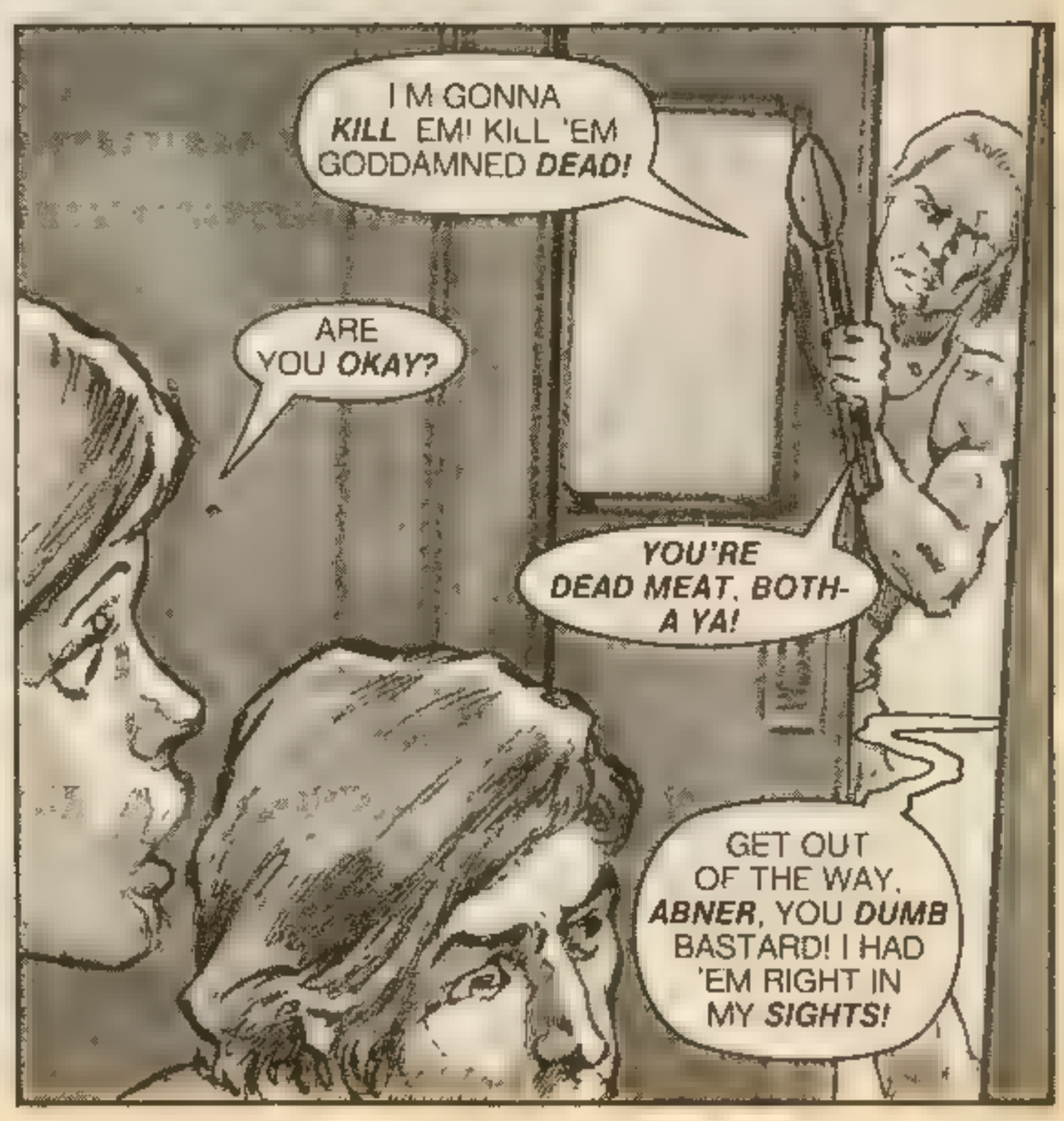


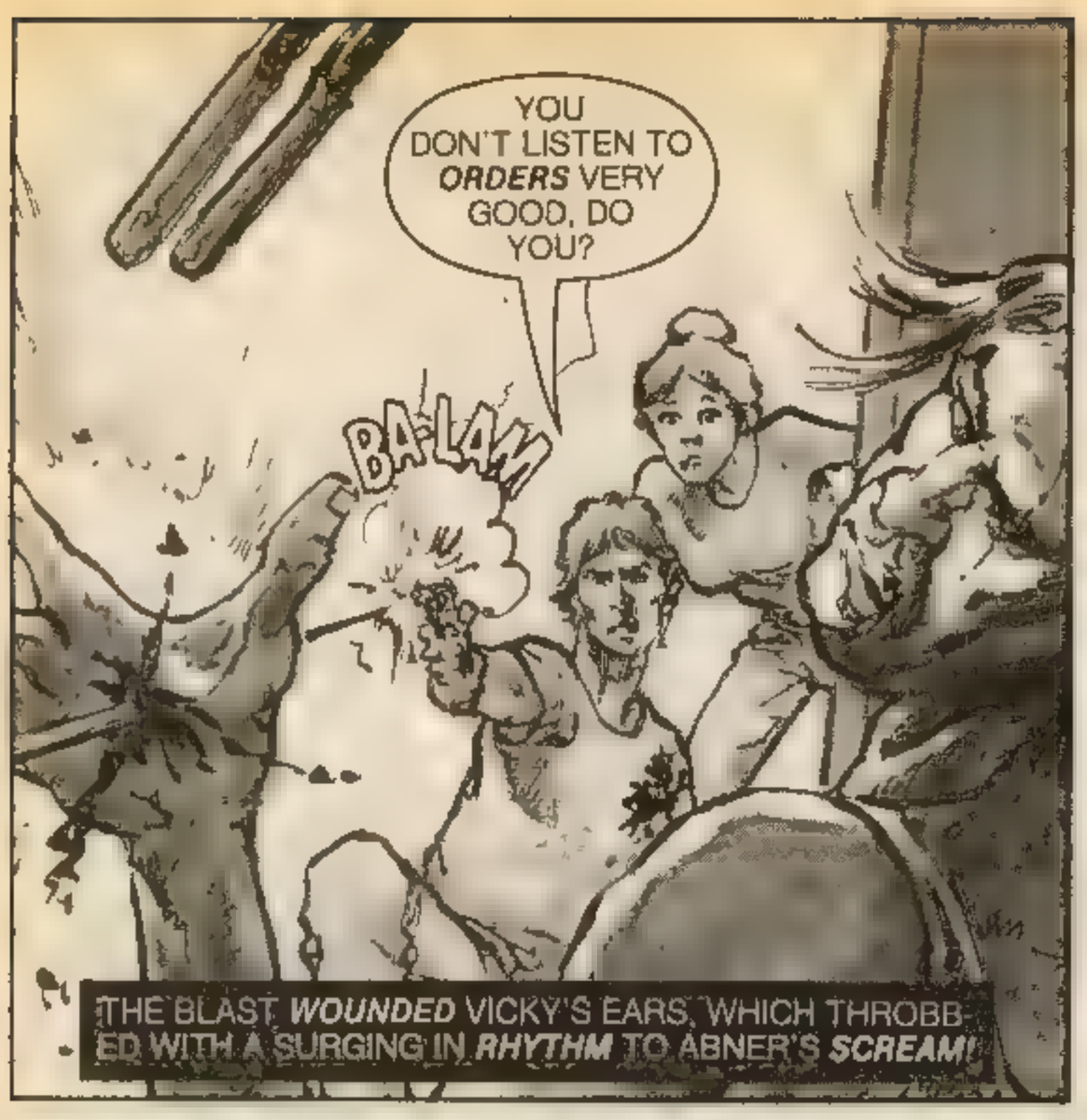




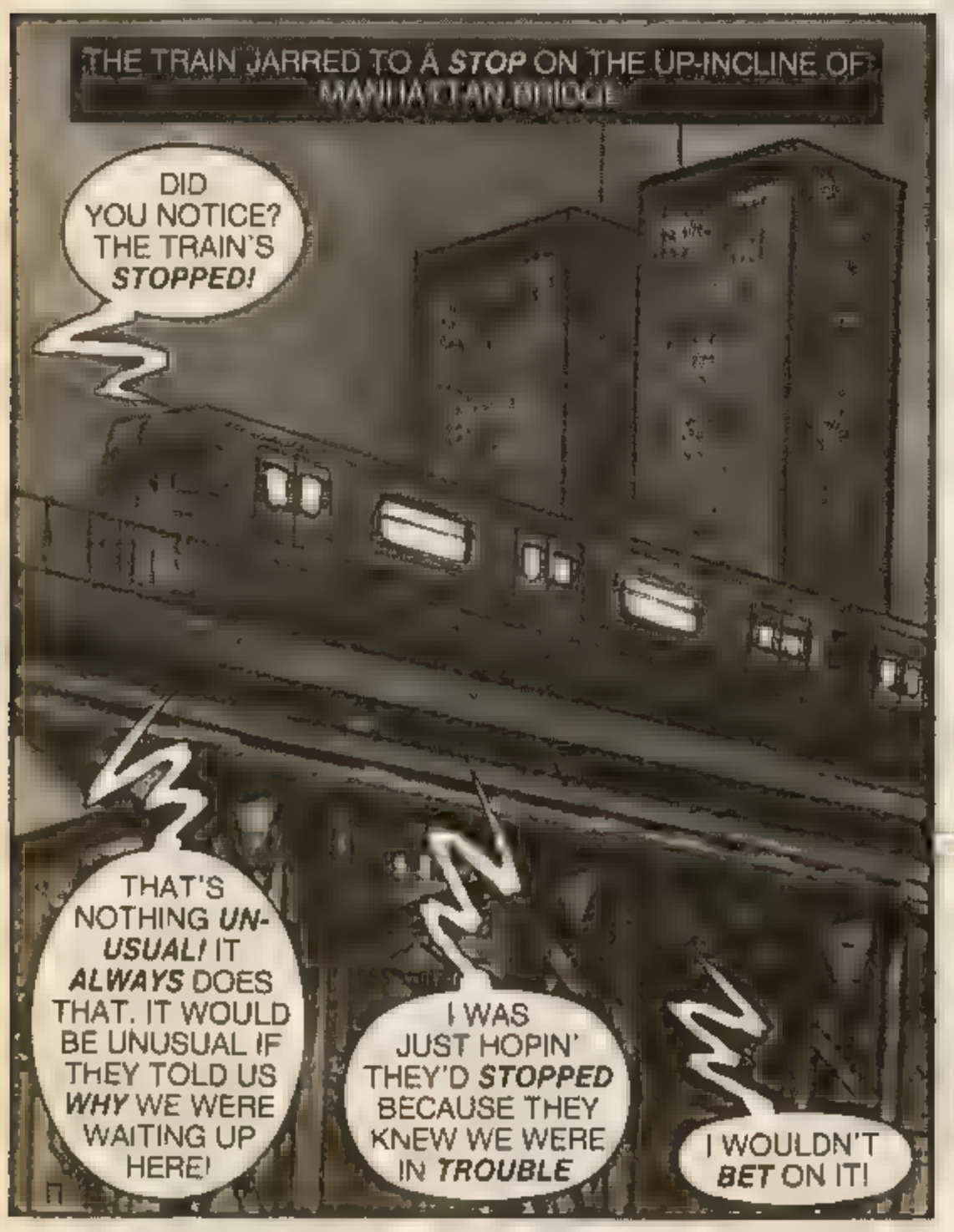


THE GUNSHOT WAS ***AMAZINGLY LOUD***, AS IF SOMEONE HAD TURNED THE VOLUME UP TO BE HEARD OVER THE SOUND OF THE ***TRAIN'S*** RATTLING OUT OF THE TUNNEL UP ONTO THE ***MANHATTAN BRIDGE***

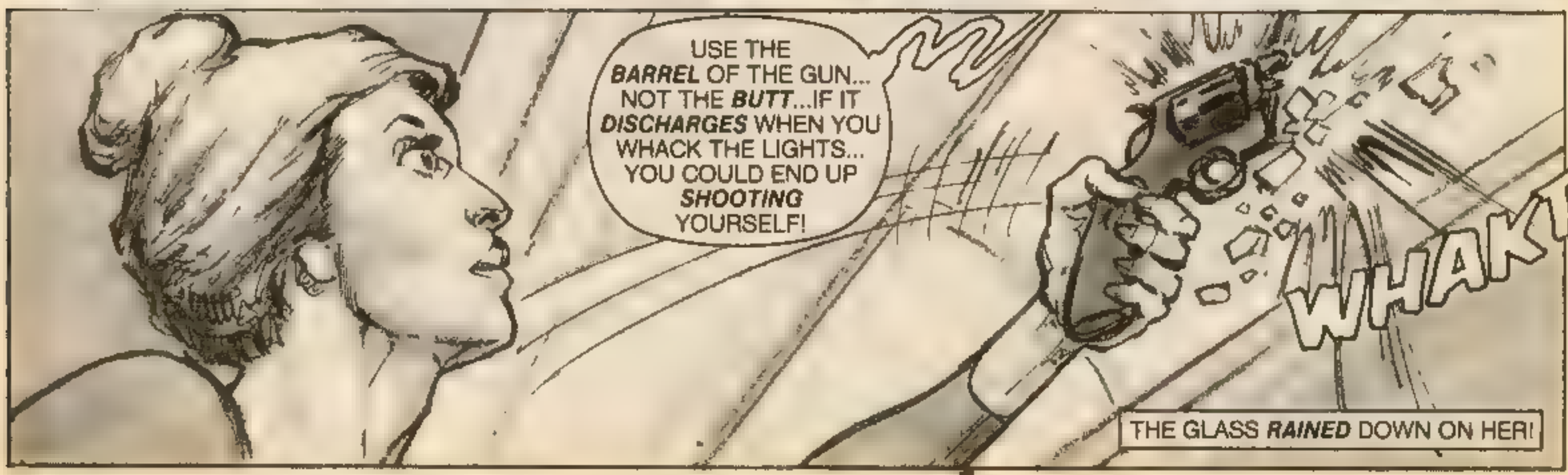


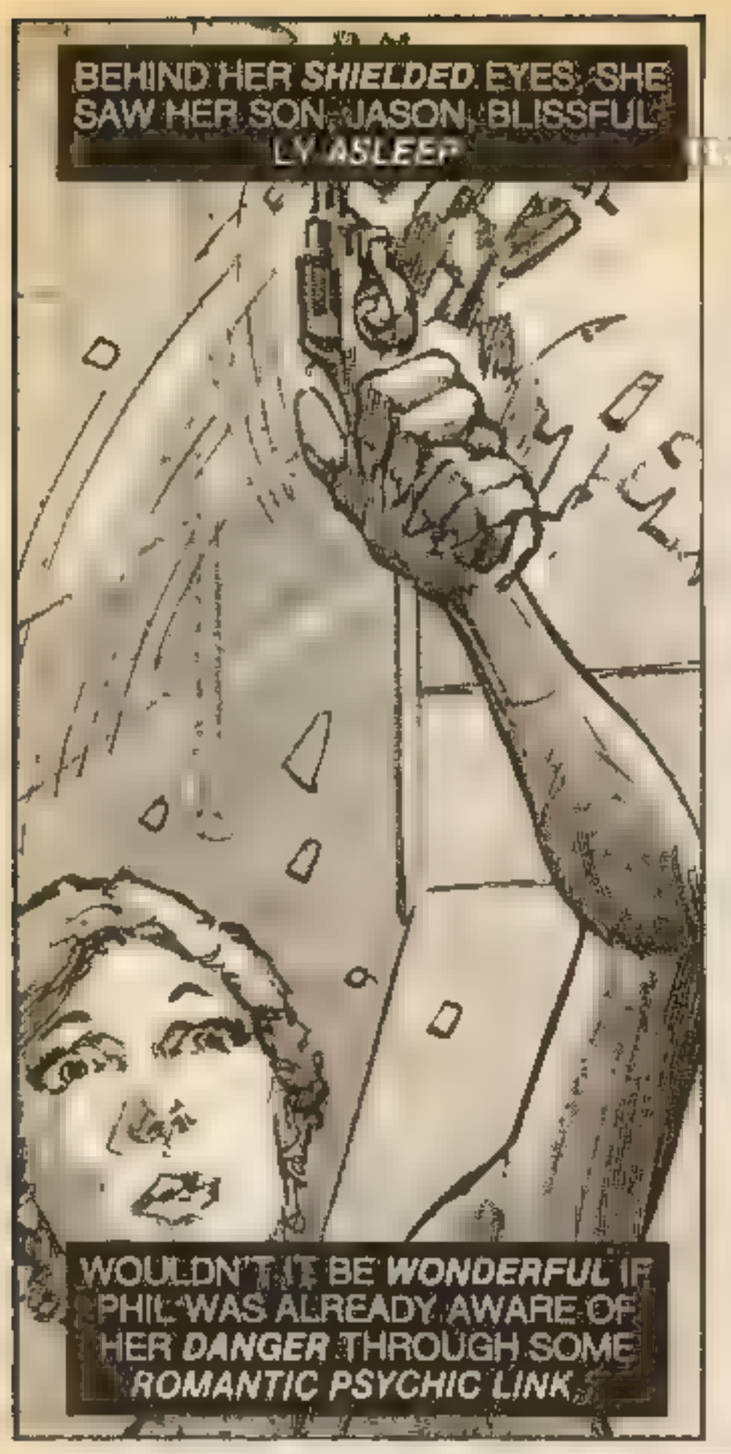

YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ***ORDERS*** VERY GOOD, DO YOU?
BA-LAM!
THE BLAST ***WOUNDED*** VICKY'S EARS, WHICH THROBBED WITH A SURGING IN ***RHYTHM*** TO ABNER'S ***SCREAM!***

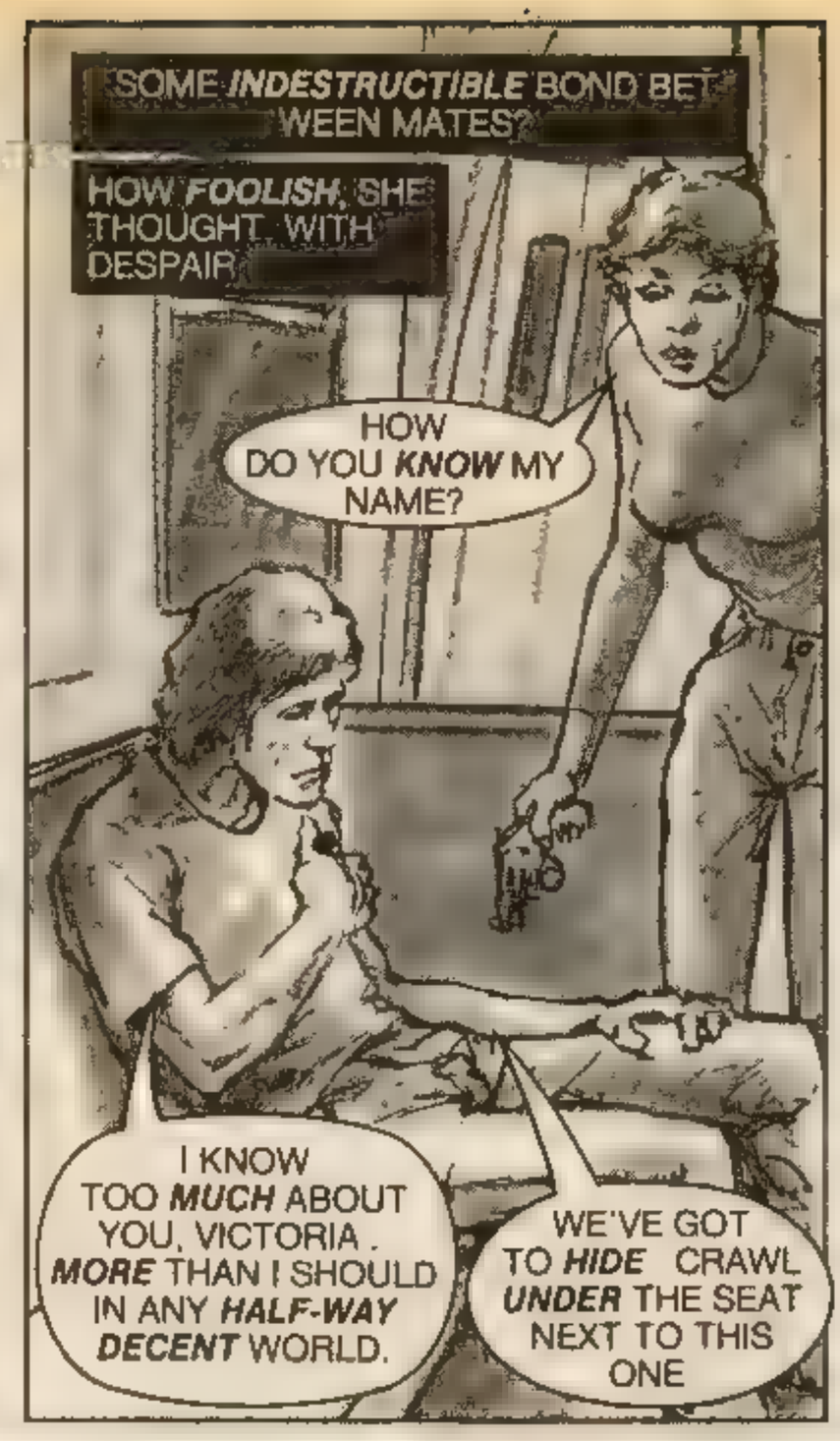
WHO ***ARE*** THEY? WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS?
IT'S ***YOU*** THEY'RE AFTER.. DON'T ***QUESTION*** IT, VICTORIA.

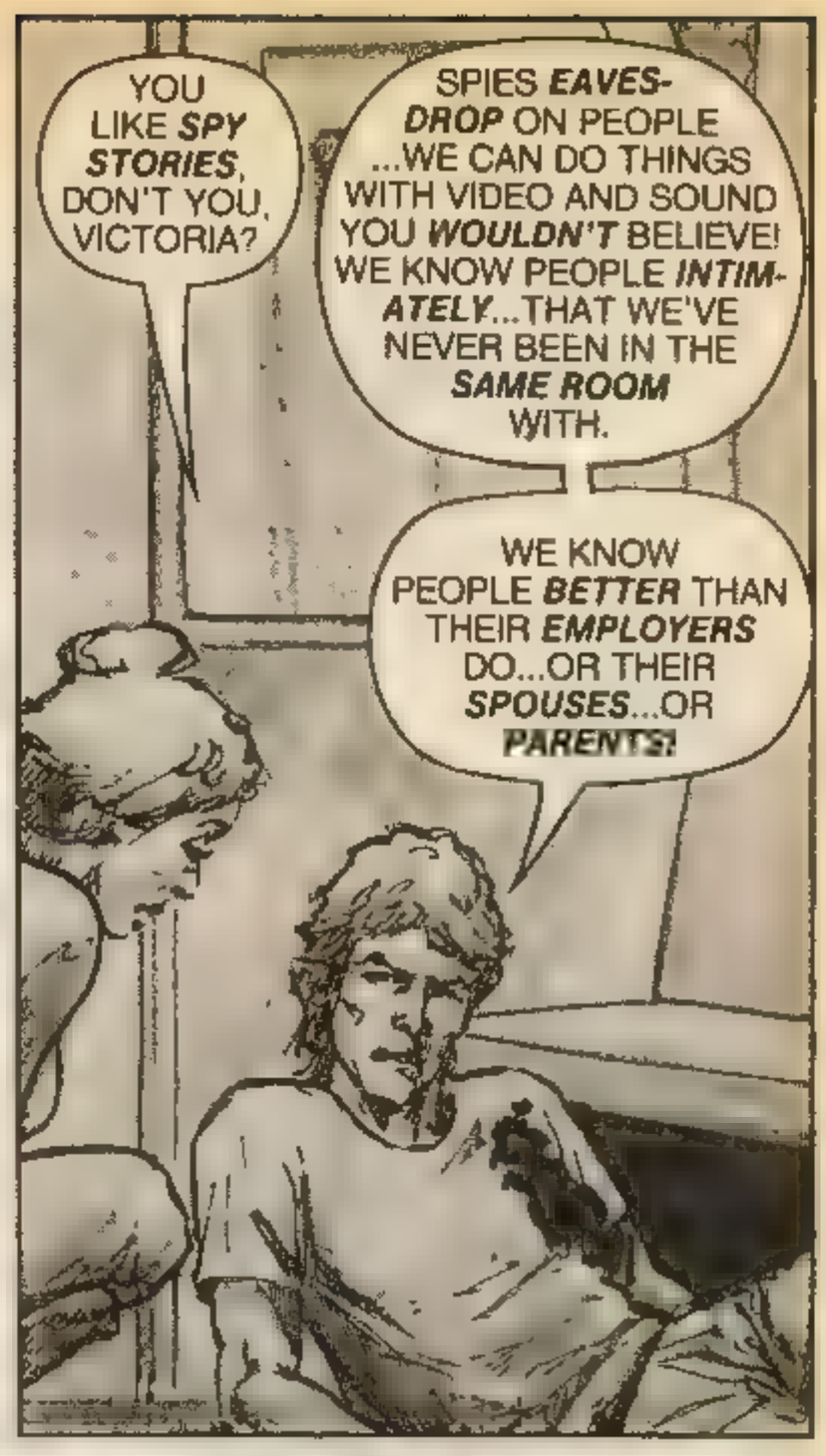

THE TRAIN JARRED TO A ***STOP*** ON THE UP-INCLINE OF MANHATTAN BRIDGE
DID YOU NOTICE? THE TRAIN'S ***STOPPED!***
THAT'S NOTHING ***UNUSUAL!*** IT ***ALWAYS*** DOES THAT. IT WOULD BE UNUSUAL IF THEY TOLD US ***WHY*** WE WERE WAITING UP HERE!
I WAS JUST HOPIN' THEY'D ***STOPPED*** BECAUSE THEY KNEW WE WERE IN ***TROUBLE***
I WOULDN'T ***BET*** ON IT!

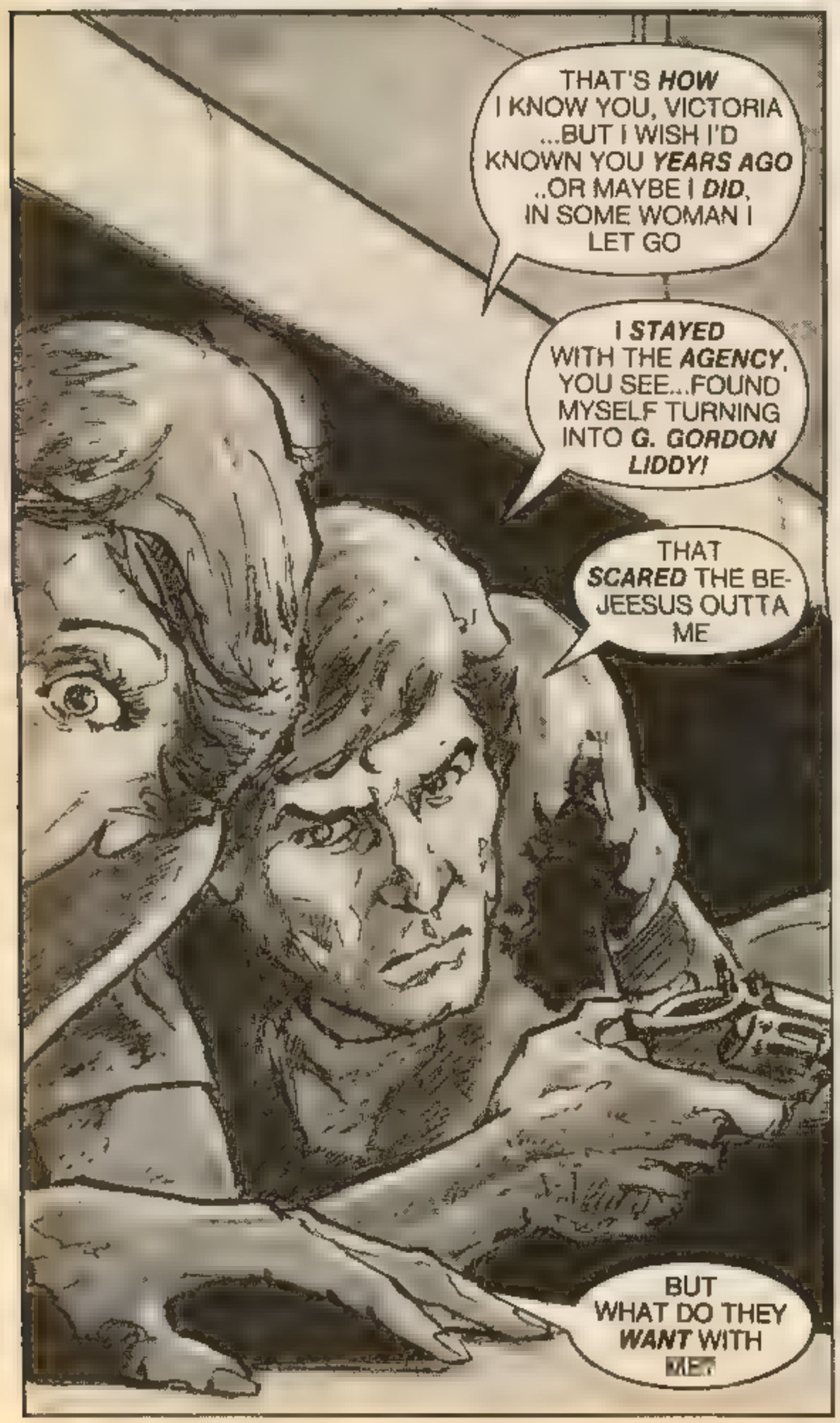
VICTORIA? DOES ***EVERY*** STRANGER ON THIS TRAIN KNOW MY GOD-DAMNED ***NAME?***
NOW THAT YOU ***MENTION*** IT, IT'S QUITE ***POSSIBLE***, VICTORIA!
LISTEN, THEY'LL MAKE AN ***ATTACK*** ON THE CAR SOON...YOU'VE GOT TO...***SMASH*** THE LIGHTS...DO IT WITH THE GUN ***NOW***
WE NEED THE ***DARK!***

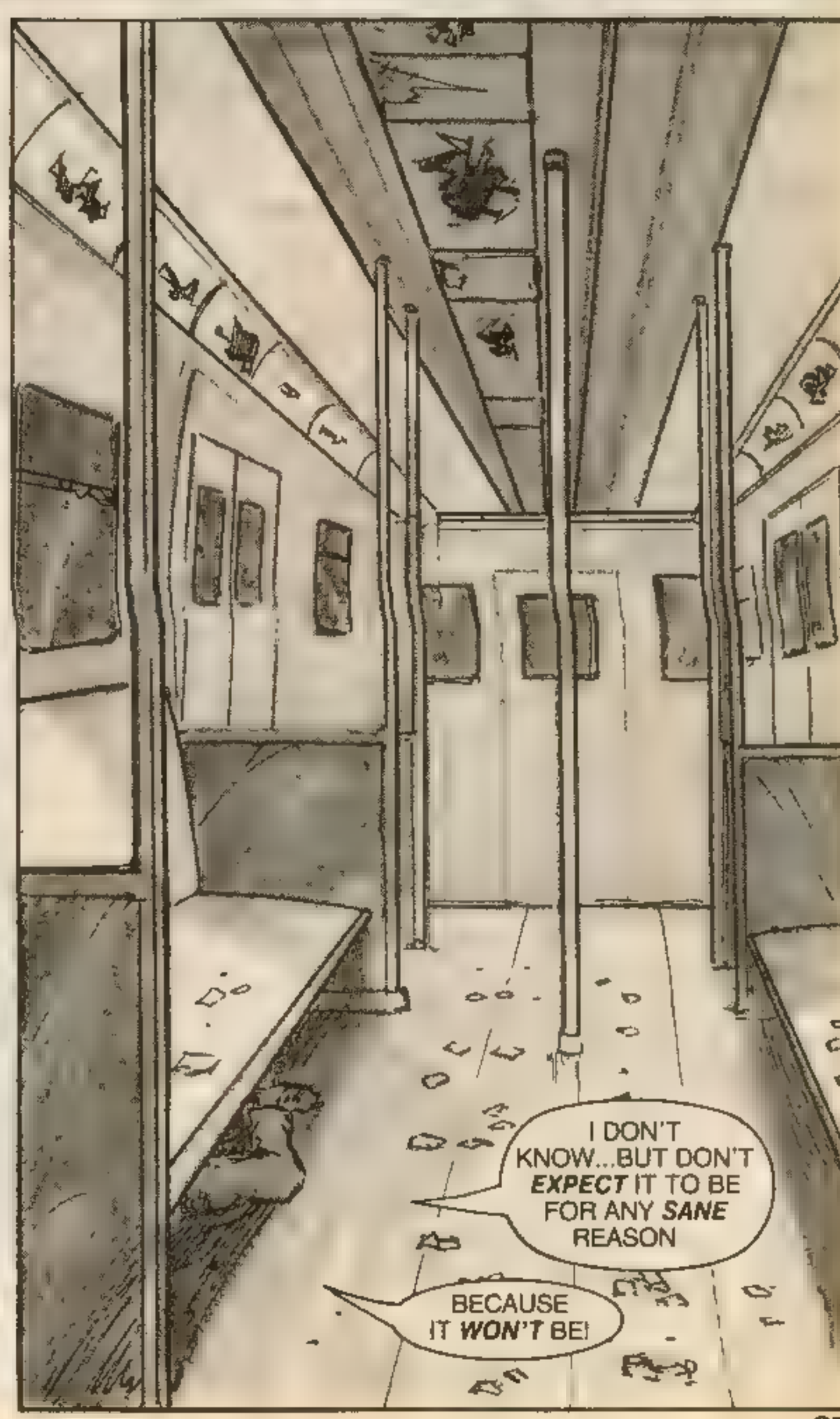

USE THE ***BARREL*** OF THE GUN... NOT THE ***BUTT***...IF IT ***DISCHARGES*** WHEN YOU WHACK THE LIGHTS... YOU COULD END UP ***SHOOTING*** YOURSELF!
WHAK!
THE GLASS ***RAINED*** DOWN ON HER!


BEHIND HER SHIELDED EYES, SHE SAW HER SON, JASON, BLISSFULLY ASLEEP
WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF PHIL WAS ALREADY AWARE OF HER DANGER THROUGH SOME ROMANTIC PSYCHIC LINK

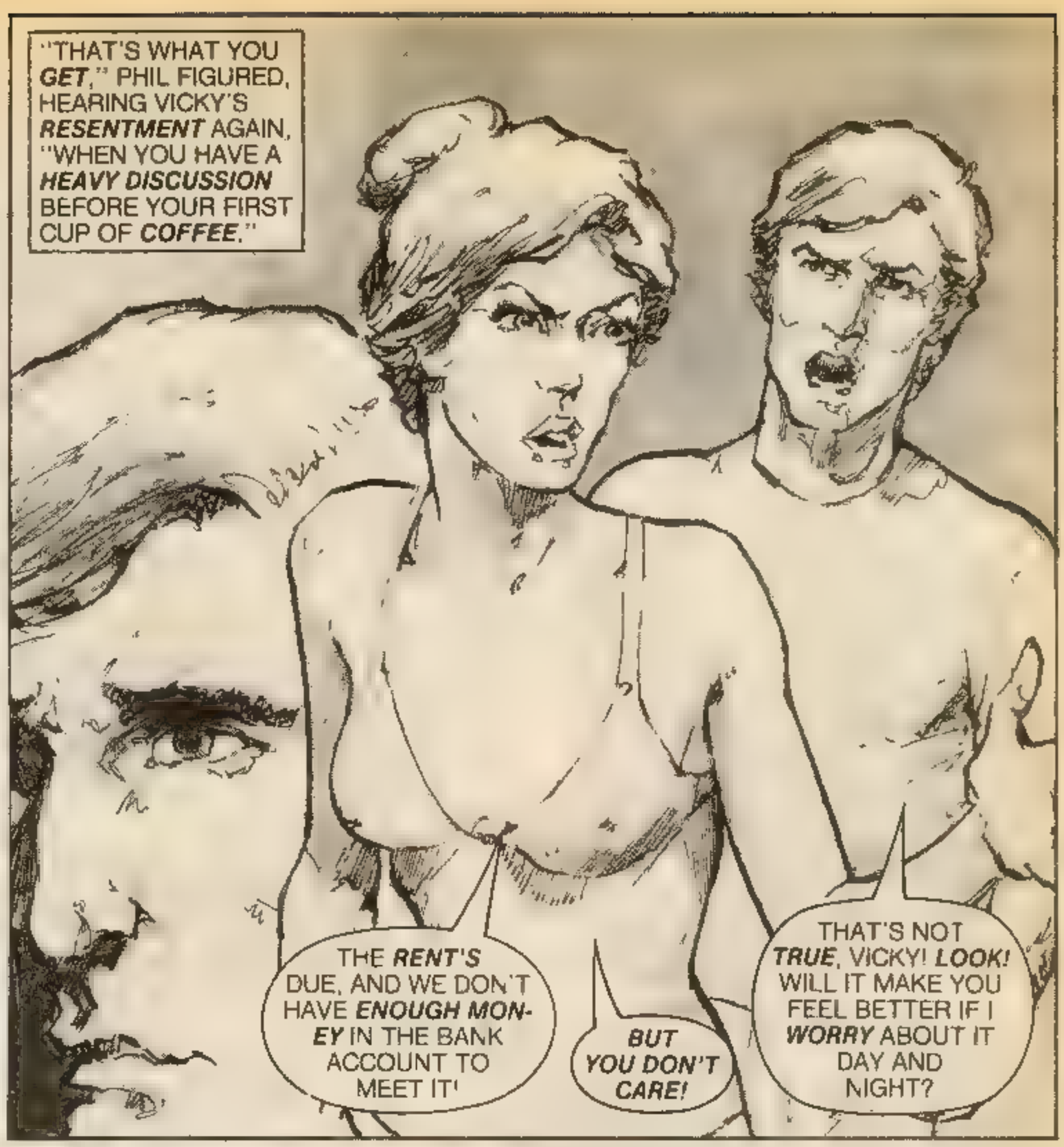

SOME INDESTRUCTIBLE BOND BETWEEN MATES?
HOW FOOLISH, SHE THOUGHT, WITH DESPAIR
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT YOU, VICTORIA . MORE THAN I SHOULD IN ANY HALF-WAY DECENT WORLD.
WE'VE GOT TO HIDE CRAWL UNDER THE SEAT NEXT TO THIS ONE


YOU LIKE SPY STORIES, DON'T YOU, VICTORIA?
SPIES EAVES-DROP ON PEOPLE ...WE CAN DO THINGS WITH VIDEO AND SOUND YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE! WE KNOW PEOPLE INTIMATELY...THAT WE'VE NEVER BEEN IN THE SAME ROOM WITH.
WE KNOW PEOPLE BETTER THAN THEIR EMPLOYERS DO...OR THEIR SPOUSES...OR PARENTS!


THAT'S HOW I KNOW YOU, VICTORIA ...BUT I WISH I'D KNOWN YOU YEARS AGO ..OR MAYBE I DID, IN SOME WOMAN I LET GO
I STAYED WITH THE AGENCY, YOU SEE...FOUND MYSELF TURNING INTO G. GORDON LIDDY!
THAT SCARED THE BE-JEESUS OUTTA ME
BUT WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH ME?

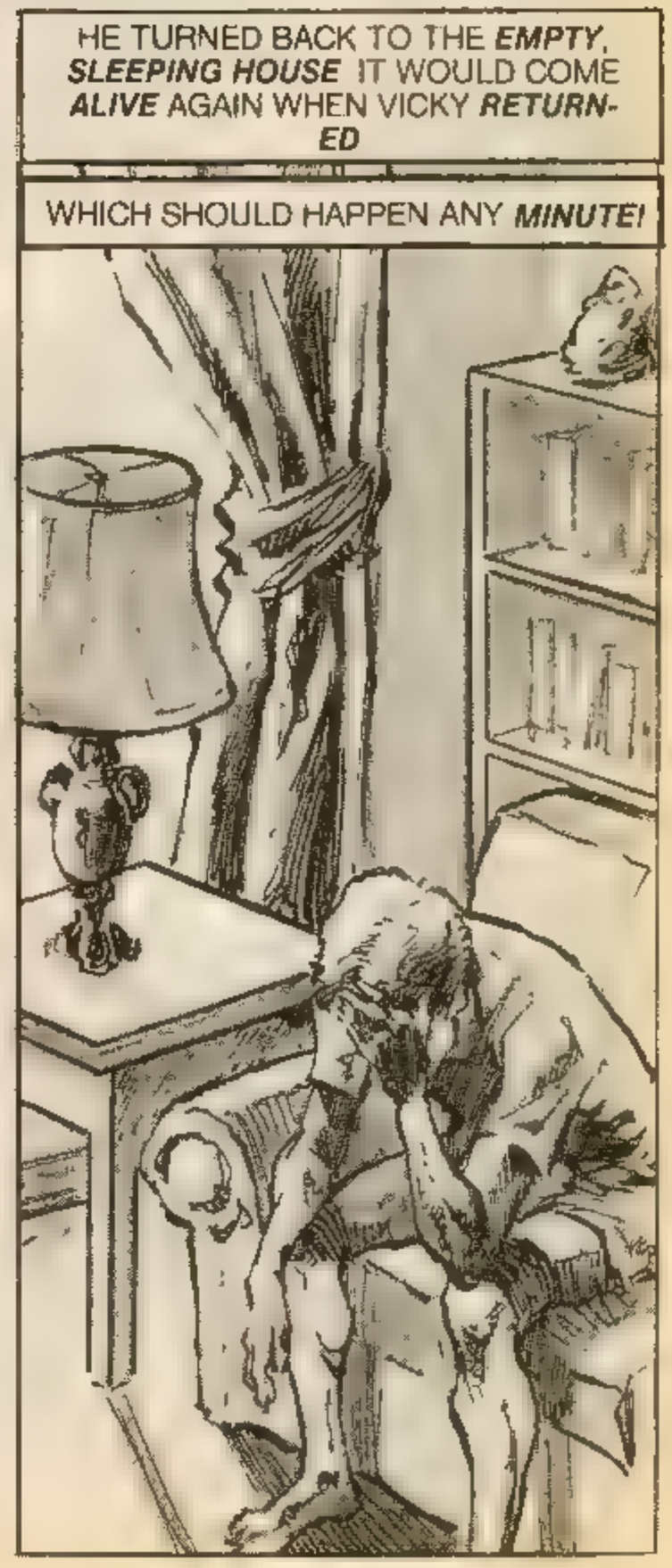

I DON'T KNOW...BUT DON'T EXPECT IT TO BE FOR ANY SANE REASON
BECAUSE IT WON'T BE!

PHILIP WESTGATE DID NOT HAVE ANY DISTURBING EXTRASENSORY VISIONS
HE DID FEEL A DISTURBING MELANCHOLIC TWINGE AS HE LOOKED AT HIS SLEEPING SON, JASON. HE REMEMBERED THE ARGUMENT IN THE MORNING...!


"THAT'S WHAT YOU GET," PHIL FIGURED, HEARING VICKY'S RESENTMENT AGAIN, "WHEN YOU HAVE A HEAVY DISCUSSION BEFORE YOUR FIRST CUP OF COFFEE."
THE RENT'S DUE, AND WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BANK ACCOUNT TO MEET IT!
BUT YOU DON'T CARE!
THAT'S NOT TRUE, VICKY! LOOK! WILL IT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER IF I WORRY ABOUT IT DAY AND NIGHT?

LISTEN, PHIL, I'VE GOT TO WORK ALL DAY, COME HOME AND COOK, AND YOU THINK I SHOULD KEEP THE DAMN BOOKS TOO?
HEY! I'M NOT SITTING ON MY ASS ALL DAY! I'M TAKING CARE OF JASON AND TRYING TO GET THAT NEW POSITION WITH THE SPACE PROGRAM!

AND YOU KNOW I HAVE NO HEAD FOR BOOKKEEPING!
OH SURE! BIG SPACE ENGINEER!
ROCKETS TO VENUS HE CAN HANDLE! TAKING CARE OF A HOUSE HE GOES TO PIECES!


HE TURNED BACK TO THE EMPTY, SLEEPING HOUSE IT WOULD COME ALIVE AGAIN WHEN VICKY RETURNED
WHICH SHOULD HAPPEN ANY MINUTE!

THE TRAIN WAS STILL ***POISED*** ON THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE, AS IF IT WERE AN ***OFFERING*** TO THE ASH-GREY HEAVENS!

YOU SEE WHAT HE DONE?

THE CREEP SHOT ME!

TAKE IT ***EASY***, ABNER YOU ALMOST ***BLEW*** THIS ENTIRE SET-UP FOR US!

I AIN'T ***LISTENIN'*** TO YOU, CHRIS! I DON'T ***GOTTA!*** I CAME HERE 'CAUSE-A LUCIFER!

THE ***LOA*** SPOKE VERY ***CLEARLY*** IN LUCIFER'S MIND, AS IF THE GOD, ***DAMBALLAH***, HAD ALWAYS GIVEN HIM ***CALM ADVICE*** IN THE MIDST OF ***CHAOS***.

THE GODS TOLD HIM, "YOU MUST ***SOOTHE*** ABNER, OR HE'LL RUN ***AMOK***."

IT'S ***OKAY***, ABNER. YOU HAVE MY ***WORD!*** THE MAN WILL ***PAY*** FOR WHAT HE'S ***DONE***.

THAT ***PIG*** PUT A ***DAMN BULLET*** THROUGH MY ***HAND!***

I'M GONNA MAKE THAT MAN ***SUFFER*** FOR THIS, ***LUCIFER!*** YOU KNOW, I COULD-A ***BLOWN*** HIS HEAD OFF IF I WANTED!

YOU ***KNOW*** THAT LUCIFER!

ONLY REASON I ***DIDN'T*** WAS 'CAUSE OF THE GIRL. SHE'D A BEEN ***BLOWN*** TO HELL ALONG WITH HIM!

WHERE ARE THEY ***NOW?***

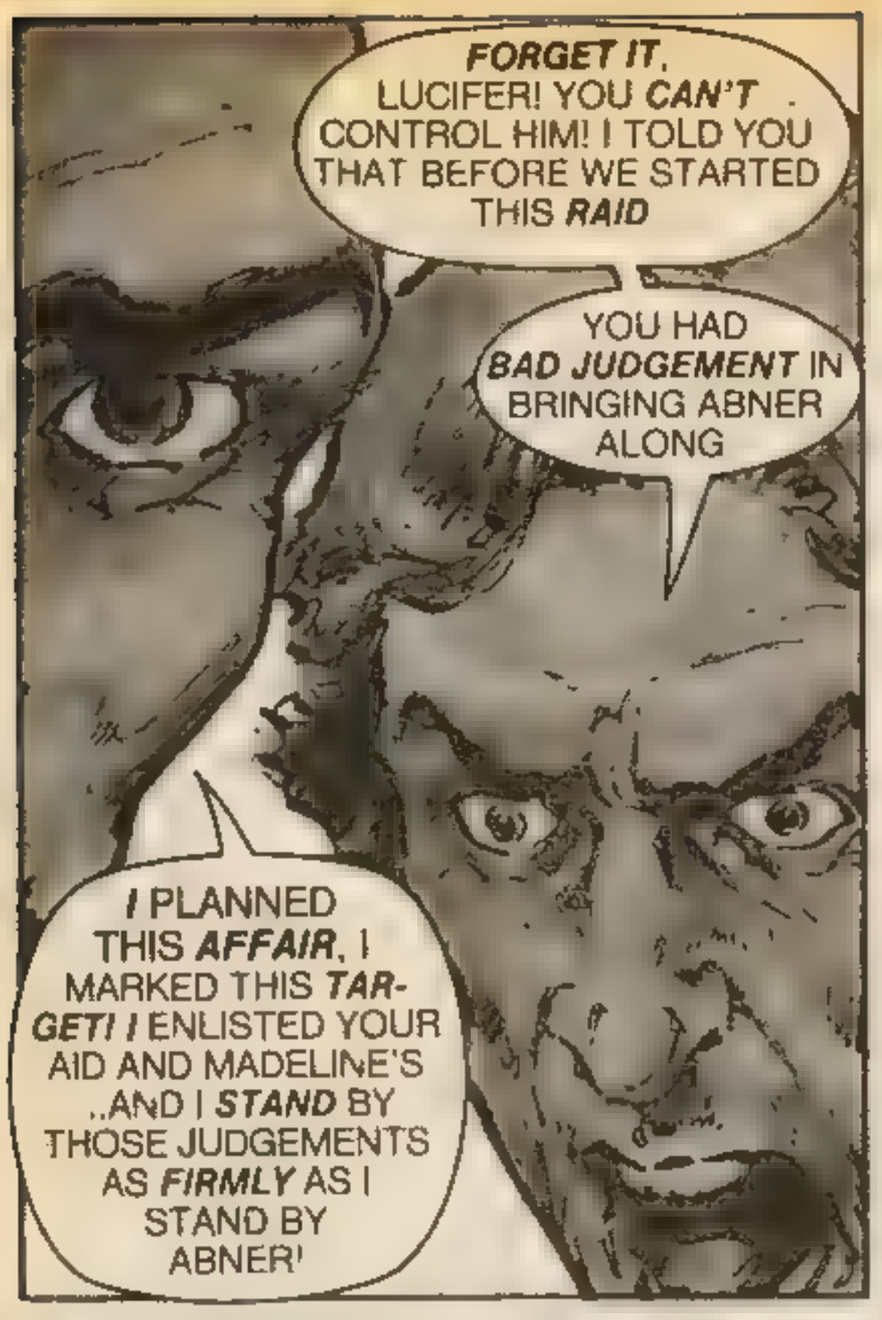
HOLED UP IN THE ***LAST CAR!*** THEY CAN'T RUN NO ***FARTHER!*** YOU COMIN' ***WITH*** ME? I'M GONNA ***WHIP*** THEIR ASS!

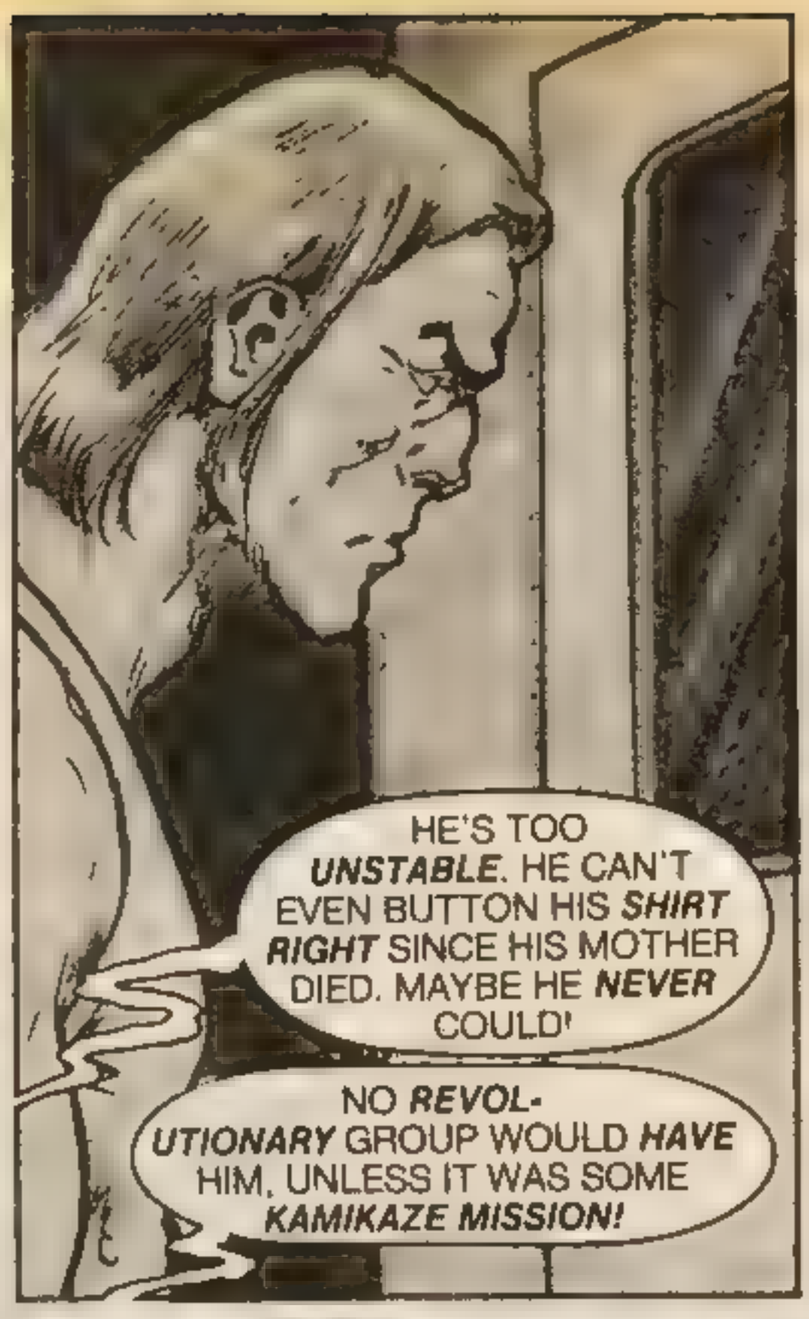
WE NEED TO TALK ***STRATEGY***

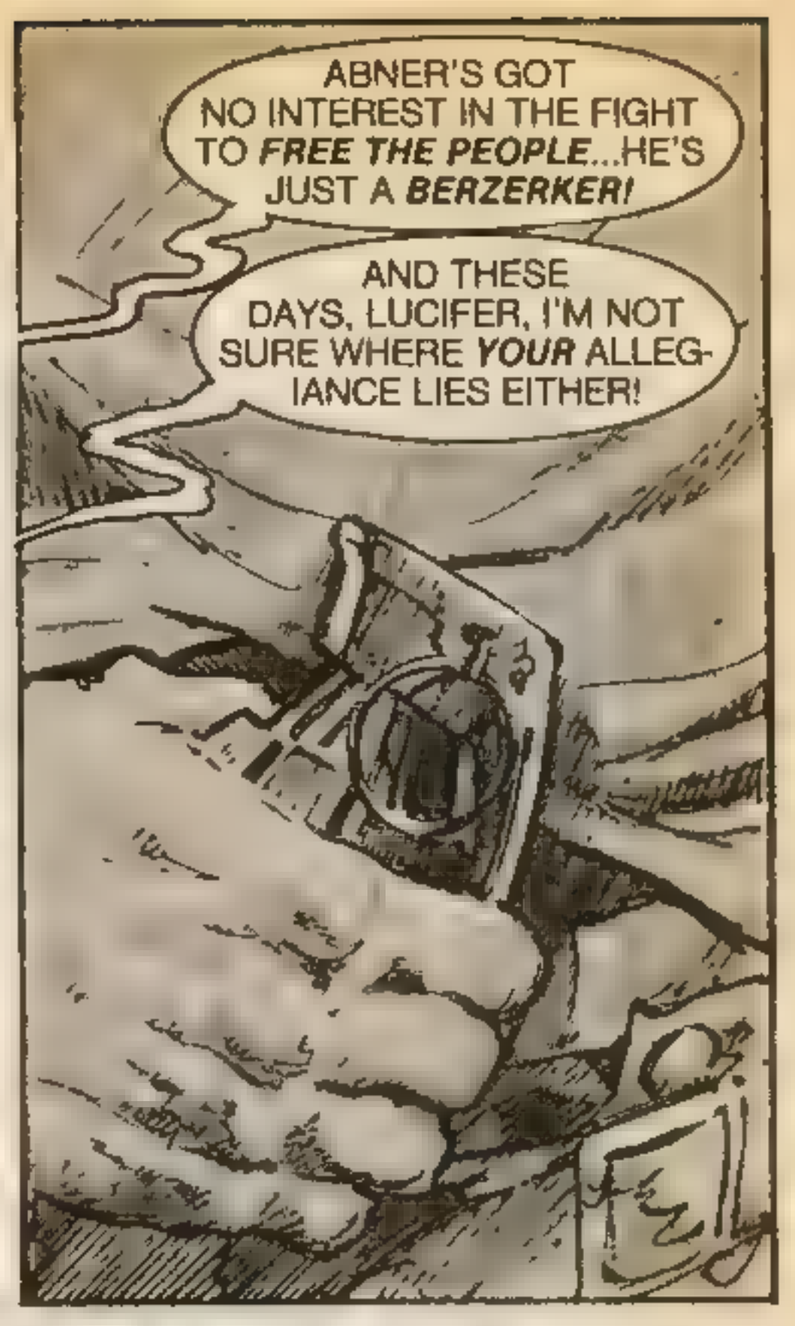
YOU DO ALL THE ***DAMN TALKIN'*** YOU WANT...I GAVE YOU A ***CHANCE***...NOW I'M ***GOIN'*** FOR 'EM!

"YOU'RE ***LOSING*** HIM", THE LOA ***REPRIMANDED!***

ABNER! WAIT!


FORGET IT, LUCIFER! YOU CAN'T CONTROL HIM! I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE WE STARTED THIS RAID
YOU HAD BAD JUDGEMENT IN BRINGING ABNER ALONG
I PLANNED THIS AFFAIR, I MARKED THIS TARGET! I ENLISTED YOUR AID AND MADELINE'S ..AND I STAND BY THOSE JUDGEMENTS AS FIRMLY AS I STAND BY ABNER!


HE'S TOO UNSTABLE. HE CAN'T EVEN BUTTON HIS SHIRT RIGHT SINCE HIS MOTHER DIED. MAYBE HE NEVER COULD!
NO REVOLUTIONARY GROUP WOULD HAVE HIM, UNLESS IT WAS SOME KAMIKAZE MISSION!

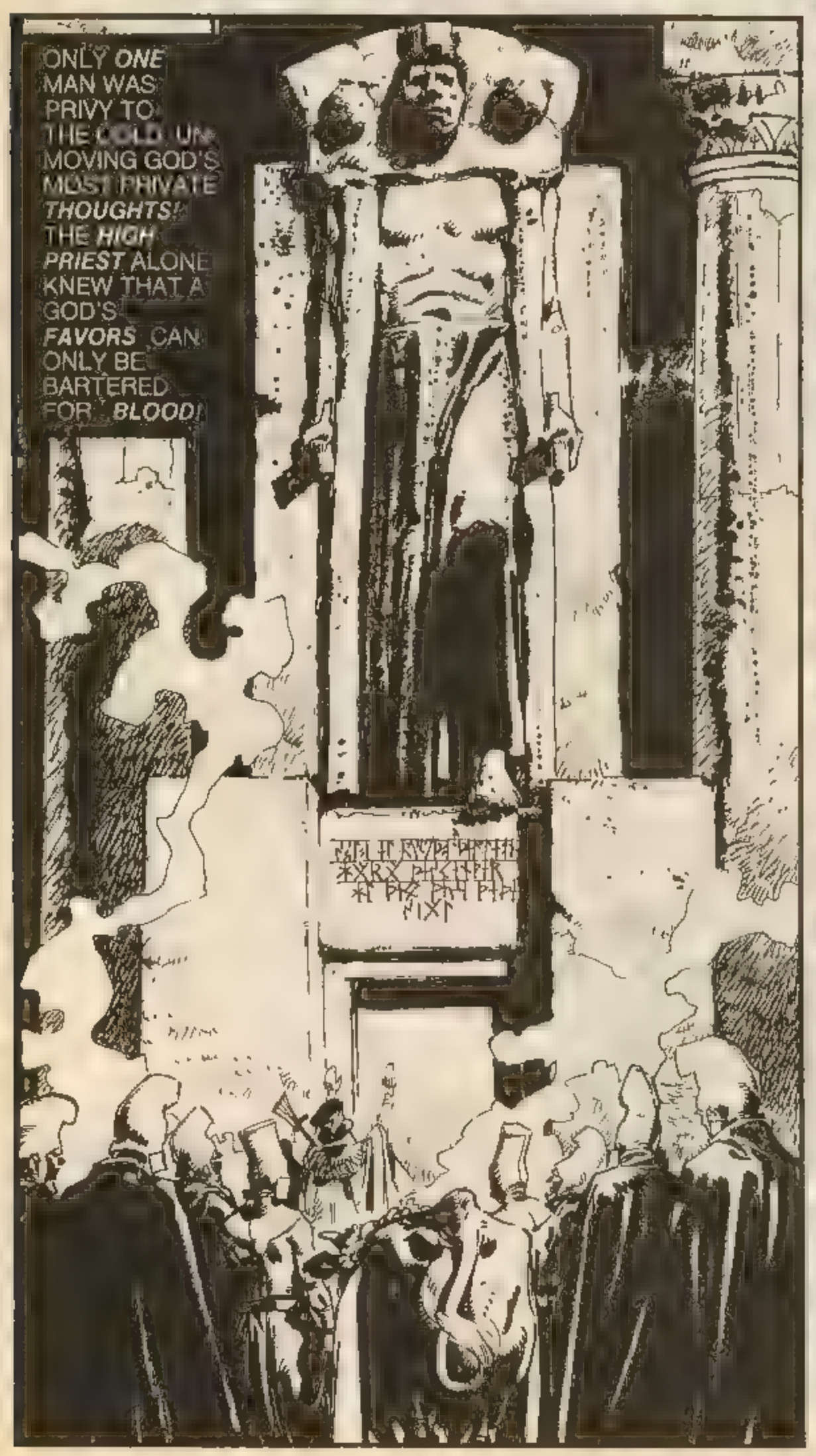

ABNER'S GOT NO INTEREST IN THE FIGHT TO FREE THE PEOPLE...HE'S JUST A BERZERKER!
AND THESE DAYS, LUCIFER, I'M NOT SURE WHERE YOUR ALLEGIANCE LIES EITHER!

I PROVED WHERE I STOOD FOR THE MOVEMENT MANY TIMES, CHRIS. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE. WHY WE'RE ALL HERE!
AND DON'T PANIC, CHRIS. WE WILL GET OUR TARGET TONIGHT. WE WILL OVERCOME!
THE LOA IN HIS HEAD AGREED

OKAY, CREEPS! COME OUT! COME OUT!
WHEREVER YOU ARE!
TO BE CONTINUED

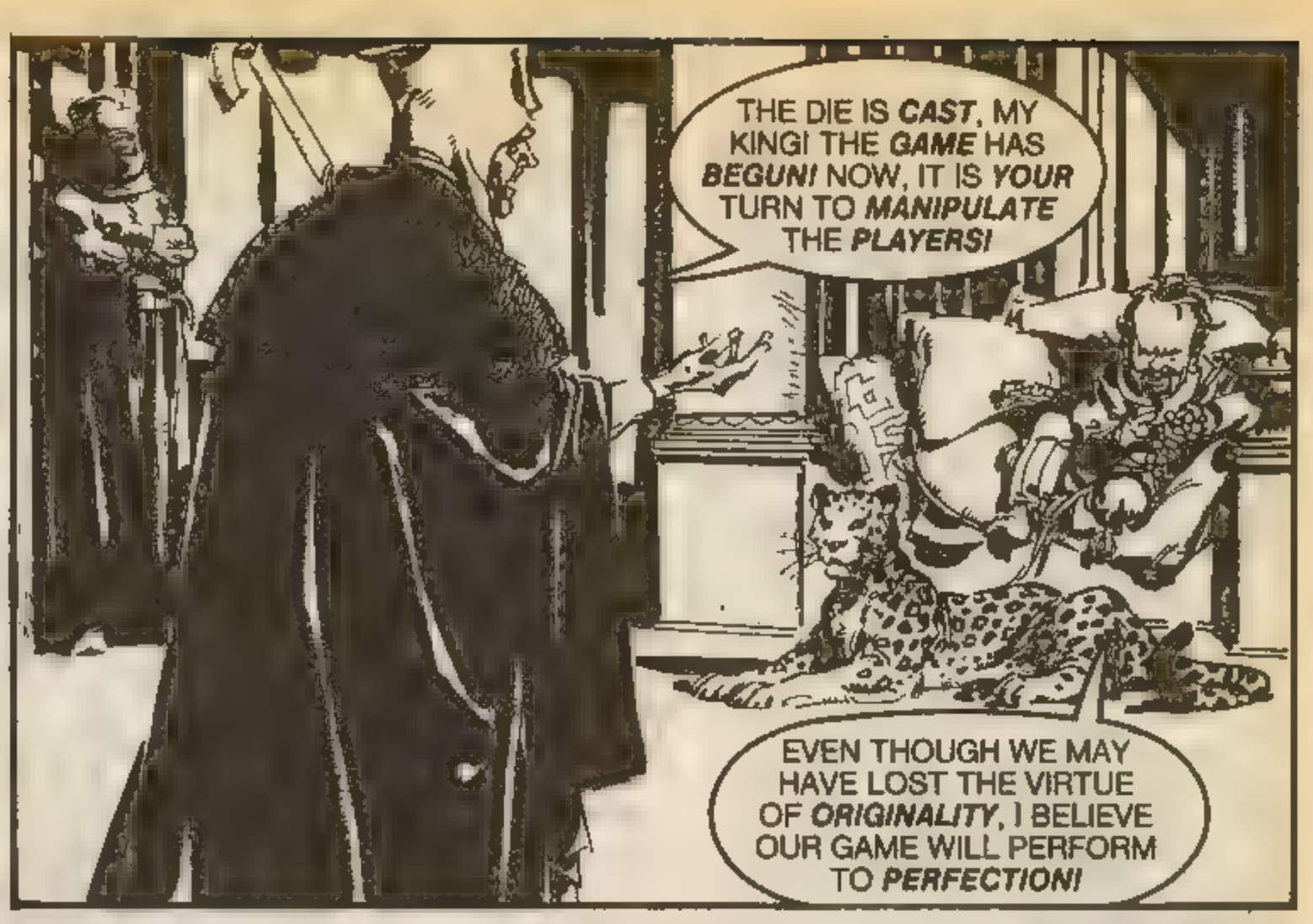
HAGGARTH BOOK II

ALL WAS *SILENT*, EXCEPT FOR THE LOW, ALMOST *SINISTER* RUMBLE OF *HUMAN VOICES* AS THEY *FILLED* THE HOLY PLACE, CHANTING THEIR PRAISES TO AN UNCARING *STONE GOD!*



Author and Illustrator: **VICTOR de la FUENTE**

AND YET...NOT ALL WHO ARE BLESSED WITH THE PRIVATE THOUGHTS OF A GOD ARE WORTHY OF THE HONOR!


THE DIE IS CAST, MY KING! THE GAME HAS BEGUN! NOW, IT IS YOUR TURN TO MANIPULATE THE PLAYERS!
EVEN THOUGH WE MAY HAVE LOST THE VIRTUE OF ORIGINALITY, I BELIEVE OUR GAME WILL PERFORM TO PERFECTION!

BUT FIRST WE MUST ASSURE THE SECRECY OF THAT WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO DO! WE MUST ERADICATE THOSE WHO KNOW TOO MUCH! DON'T YOU AGREE, PRIEST?

W-WAIT! MY LIEGE! W-WHAT ARE YOU... DOING?
MY DEAR FRIEND, AFTER INITIATING THE GAME OF DEATH, ONE MUSTN'T SHIRK FROM ITS CONSEQUENCES!
N-NOOOO! Y-YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! MY GOD! YOU... YOU CAN'T... KILL ME!

COME NOW! PLEASE TRY TO SHOW SOME DIGNITY! AS A HIGH PRIEST YOU MUSTN'T BE A COWARD, EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN A TRAITOR TO YOUR OWN PEOPLE!
I PROMISE YOU ...YOUR DEATH SHALL BE AVENGED!

NOT *FAR* FROM THE TREACHEROUS DEVILTRY WITHIN THE *TEMPLE*, A *WANDERER SCROUNGED* WITHIN THE HIGHLANDS FOR HIS MEAGRE DAILY SUSTENANCE!

I HAVE SEEN *BETTER* DAYS ON THESE MOUNTAINS! *ROOTS* AND *BERRIES! BERRIES* AND *ROOTS!* IS THERE NOTHING *BETTER* FOR A MAN TO *EAT* HERE?

IF THE *GODS* HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT I'M STILL *ALIVE*, MAYBE THEY'LL ALLOW ME TO CATCH A NICE *TROUT*, JUST TO ADD A LITTLE *VARIETY* TO MY DIET!

NO DOUBT, THIS IS WHAT THOSE DOGS WOULD'VE DONE TO ME IF THEY'D SEEN ME! POOR DEVIL! HE WON'T BE NEEDING THIS VEST AND AMULET ANY MORE! MAYBE I CAN USE THEM LATER...OR TRADE THEM FOR FOOD!

LIFE IS HARD ENOUGH WITHOUT SENSELESS SLAUGHTER! JUST TO BE WORTHY OF THE GODS' MAGNANIMOUS BLESSINGS, WE POOR MORTALS HAVE TO FORGO ALL COMFORTS AND PLEASURES!
IT MAKES ONE WONDER IF IT'S ALL WORTHWHILE!

HUH? OH! HELLO! YOU...YOU FRIGHTENED ME! I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COMING!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT, ALL I CAN OFFER YOU IS SOME ROOTS AND BERRIES!
I...I'M SORRY I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH...FRIEND!

I ONLY WANT TO KNOW ONE THING, WORM! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS CHAIN AND THIS VEST?
P-PLEASE! I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG! I FOUND THEM ...TRULY I DID!

LIAR! THEY BELONG TO BOTAN! HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEM LYING ABOUT FOR A BEGGAR TO FIND!
IT...IT'S TRUE! UGHN! HE DID NOT LEAVE THEM LAYING ABOUT! SOLDIERS DID ...NEAR THE TREE WHERE THEY HUNG HIM!

BORIN! I'VE CORNERED THIS WORM WITH BOTAN'S VEST! HE CLAIMS THAT HE FOUND OUR BROTHER, HANGING FROM A TREE...DEAD!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?

BEFORE WE DECIDE, MAKE HIM TAKE US TO WHERE HE FOUND BOTAN! AND CAUTION HIM NOT TO TAKE THE LONG WAY AROUND!

THE GODS HELP ME! EVERYONE HAS VERY DEFINITE IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO END MY LIFE! EVERYONE ...BUT ME!

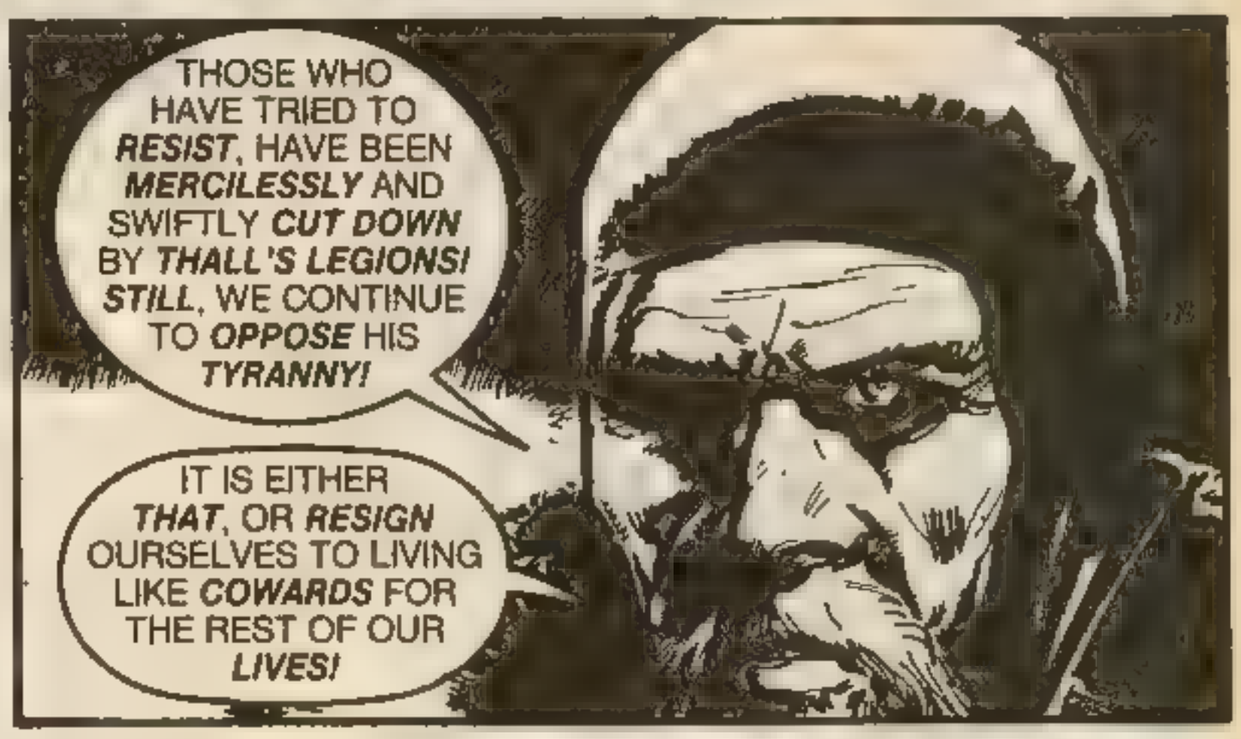
P-PLEASE! I'VE DONE NOTHING! YOU...YOU WON'T HURT ME?!
WE'LL PROBABLY HANG YOU FROM BOTAN'S DEATH TREE! IF WE CAN'T FIND THE TREE, HOWEVER, WE WILL BUTCHER YOU LIKE AN ANIMAL, CUT YOU INTO TINY PIECES, THEN THROW YOUR BONES TO THE WOLVES!

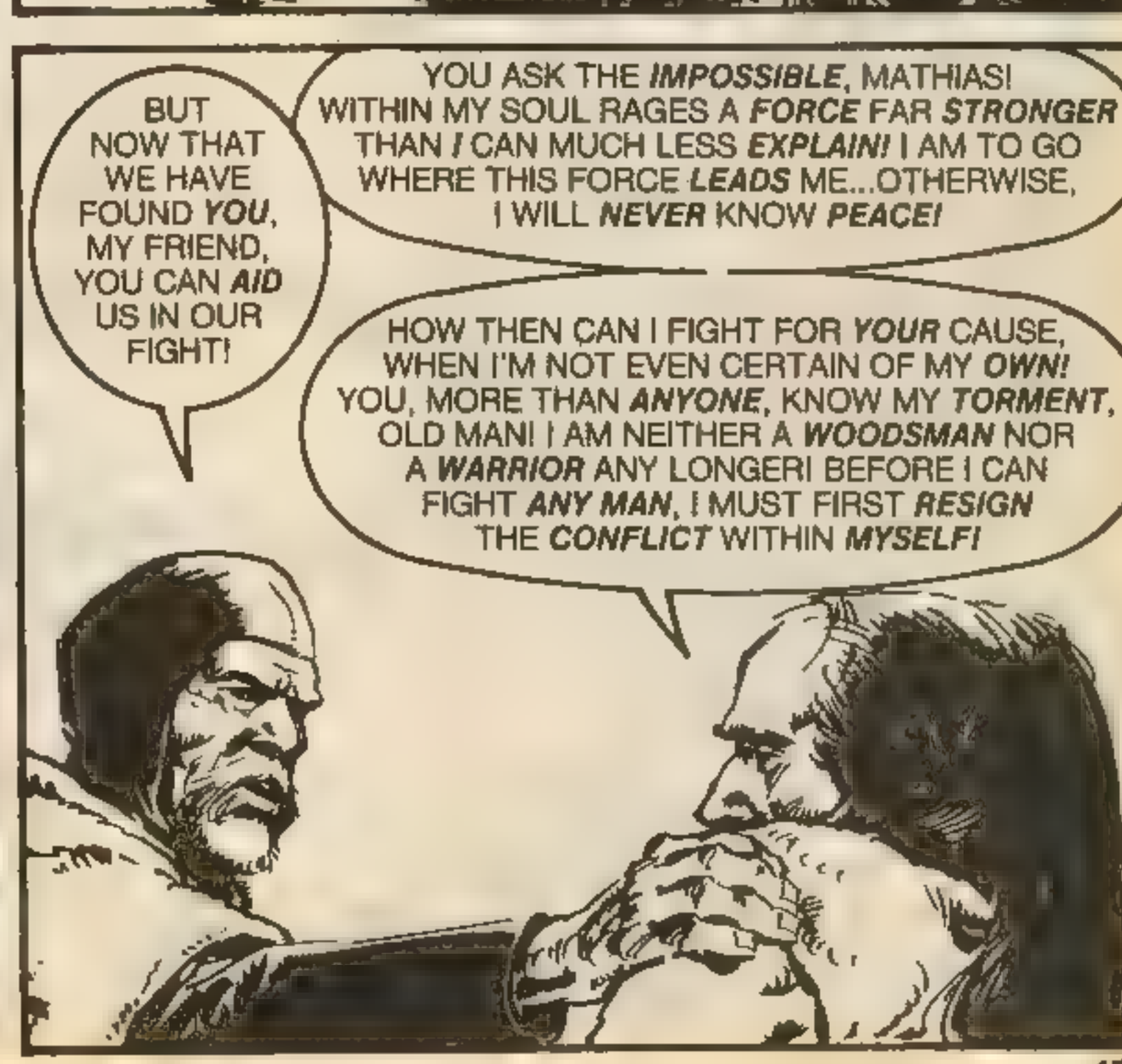
IN YET *ANOTHER* PART OF THE SPRAWLING MOUNTAIN HIGHLANDS...A HUNGRY WARRIOR *WRESTLED* WITH HIS UNCOOPERATIVE *DINNER* AS MALEVOLENT *EYES* WATCHED FROM THE SAFETY OF THE WOODS...

HOLD YOUR SWORD, HAGGARTH! SPARE THAT MAN!

HE ATTACKED YOU BY MISTAKE. THINKING YOU WERE ONE OF THE KING'S MERCENARIES!
MATHIAS DE MOSSA! SO WE MEET AGAIN, MY OLD FRIEND!
IF YOU SAY THIS MAN MEANT NO HARM TO ME, THEN GLADLY WILL I SPARE HIM!

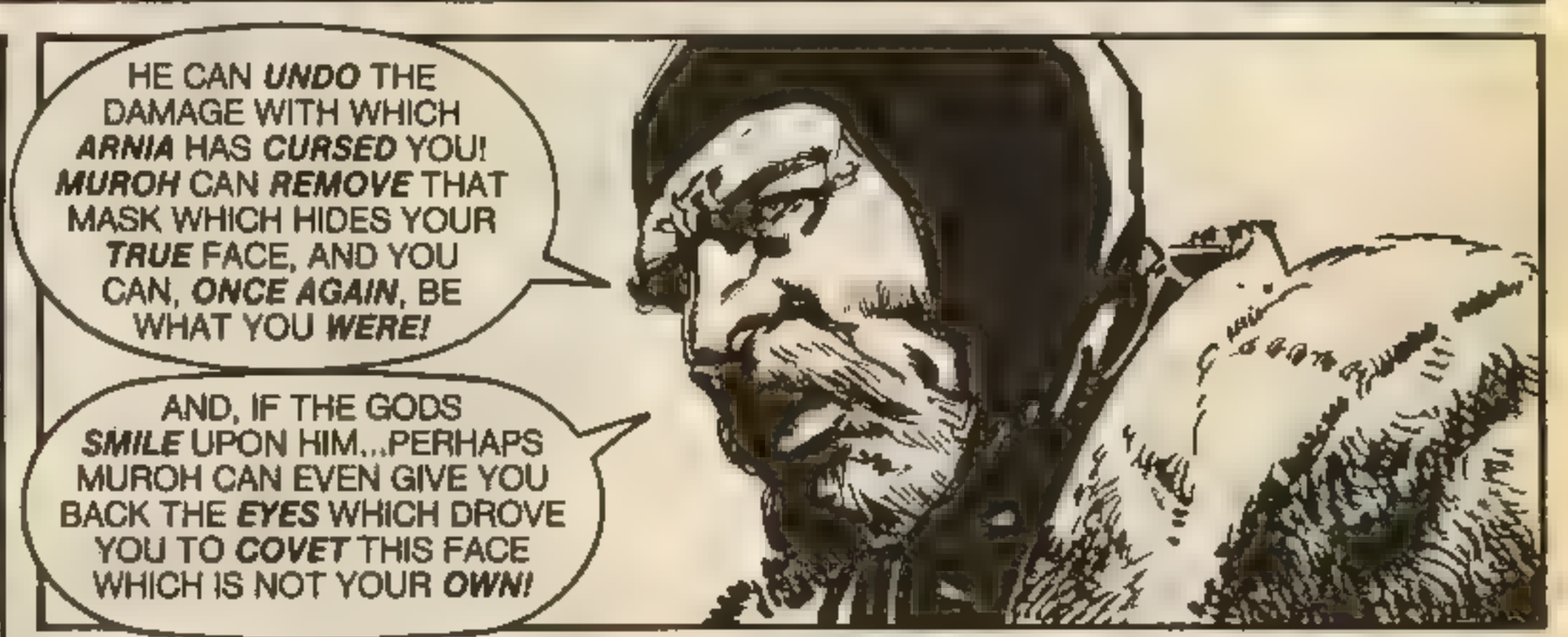
IT IS GOOD TO TO SEE YOU AGAIN, WARRIOR! I ONLY REGRET THAT IT COULD NOT BE UNDER MORE PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES! THESE VILLAGERS HAVE TURNED THEMSELVES INTO AN ARMED CAMP OPPOSING EVIL KING THALL'S SOLDIERS!
THAT DUNG OF A KING HAS BROUGHT FORTH OPPRESSION THE LIKES OF WHICH WE HAVE NEVER SEEN . ALL ON THE PRETEXT OF SNUFFING OUT THE ASSASSIN WHO BUTCHERED HIS HIGH PRIEST!

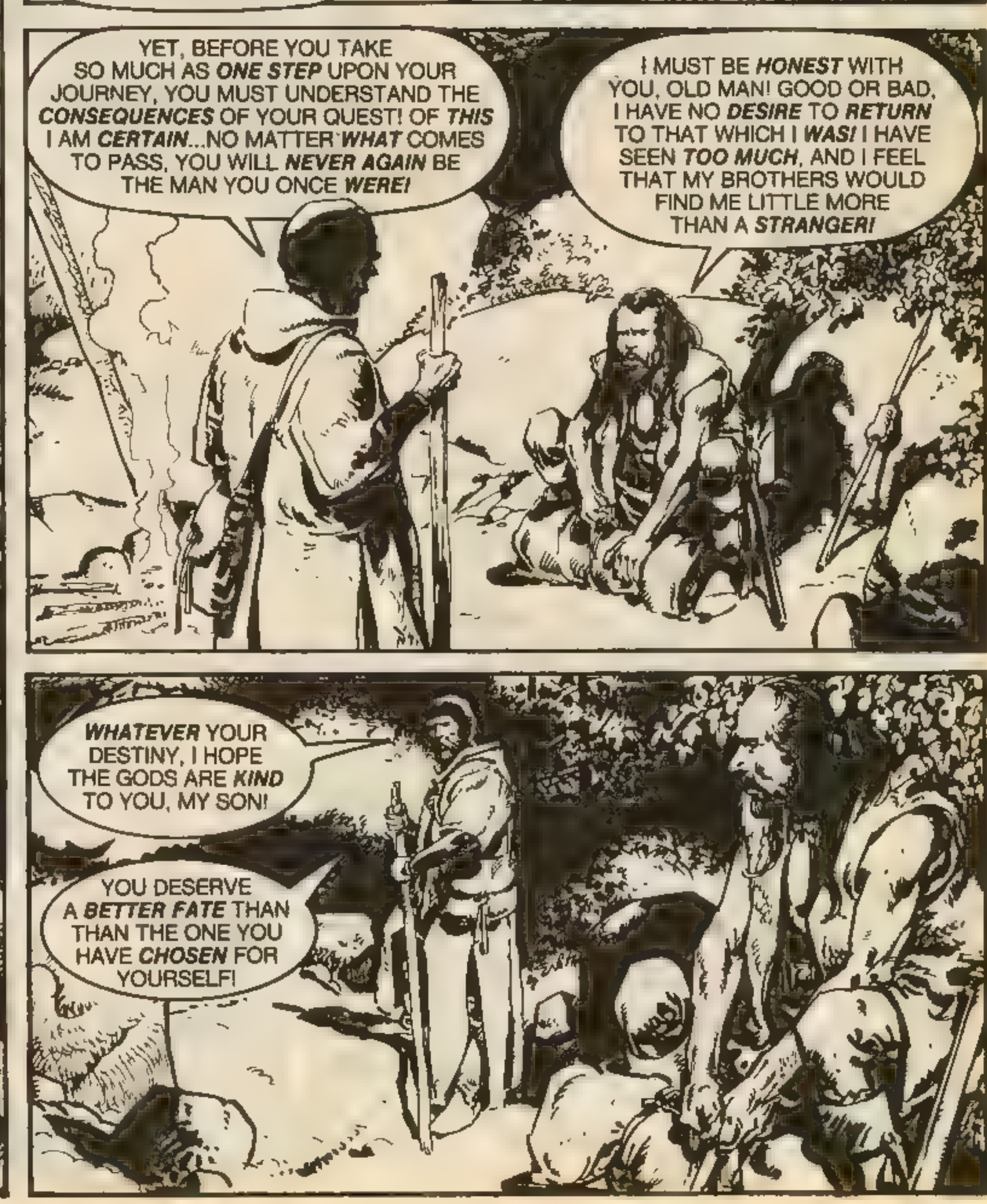

THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED TO RESIST, HAVE BEEN MERCILESSLY AND SWIFTLY CUT DOWN BY THALL'S LEGIONS! STILL, WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE HIS TYRANNY!
IT IS EITHER THAT, OR RESIGN OURSELVES TO LIVING LIKE COWARDS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!


BUT NOW THAT WE HAVE FOUND YOU, MY FRIEND, YOU CAN AID US IN OUR FIGHT!
YOU ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE, MATHIAS! WITHIN MY SOUL RAGES A FORCE FAR STRONGER THAN I CAN MUCH LESS EXPLAIN! I AM TO GO WHERE THIS FORCE LEADS ME...OTHERWISE, I WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE!
HOW THEN CAN I FIGHT FOR YOUR CAUSE, WHEN I'M NOT EVEN CERTAIN OF MY OWN! YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE, KNOW MY TORMENT, OLD MAN! I AM NEITHER A WOODSMAN NOR A WARRIOR ANY LONGER! BEFORE I CAN FIGHT ANY MAN, I MUST FIRST RESIGN THE CONFLICT WITHIN MYSELF!

I WARNED YOU THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO BE BLIND AND KNOW PEACE, THAN TO LIVE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER!*
IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO WEAR THE FACE OF A DEAD MAN, THEN YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ONE DAY FREE YOURSELF!

THIS FORCE THAT BECKONS YOU UPON A PATH ENGRAVED IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS, IS TRULY FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN ALL THE FORCES IN THE UNIVERSE! ONLY I, MY FRIEND, KNOW THAT THIS POWER IS LEADING YOU TO...JAKERITH!
IF YOU SUCCEED IN REACHING THIS FAR AWAY LAND OF THE RED SANDS, THEN YOU MUST LOOK FOR MUROH! HE IS THE ONLY MAN UPON ALL THE EARTH WHO CAN HELP YOU!


HE CAN UNDO THE DAMAGE WITH WHICH ARNIA HAS CURSED YOU! MUROH CAN REMOVE THAT MASK WHICH HIDES YOUR TRUE FACE, AND YOU CAN, ONCE AGAIN, BE WHAT YOU WERE!
AND, IF THE GODS SMILE UPON HIM...PERHAPS MUROH CAN EVEN GIVE YOU BACK THE EYES WHICH DROVE YOU TO COVET THIS FACE WHICH IS NOT YOUR OWN!


YET, BEFORE YOU TAKE SO MUCH AS ONE STEP UPON YOUR JOURNEY, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR QUEST! OF THIS I AM CERTAIN...NO MATTER WHAT COMES TO PASS, YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THE MAN YOU ONCE WERE!
I MUST BE HONEST WITH YOU, OLD MAN! GOOD OR BAD, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RETURN TO THAT WHICH I WAS! I HAVE SEEN TOO MUCH, AND I FEEL THAT MY BROTHERS WOULD FIND ME LITTLE MORE THAN A STRANGER!

WHATEVER YOUR DESTINY, I HOPE THE GODS ARE KIND TO YOU, MY SON!
YOU DESERVE A BETTER FATE THAN THAN THE ONE YOU HAVE CHOSEN FOR YOURSELF!

AS THE OLD MAN AND THE WARRIOR ***PARTED WAYS***, THE ARROGANT FOOTFALLS OF DIMINUTIVE ***KING THALL*** ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE HALLOWED TEMPLE OF THE FEARSOME GOD ***KHOST!***

IT WAS THE HIGH PRIEST'S ***KNOWLEDGE*** THAT FORCED ME TO HAVE HIM ***SLAIN!*** HE KNEW ***TOO MUCH***, AND WAS THEREFORE ***DANGEROUS*** TO ME!

WHILE, *ELSEWHERE* IN THE *MOUNTAINS*, A GRISLY *SIGHT* HUNG INDELICATELY BEFORE A SMALL BAND OF HIGHLAND RAIDERS...

IT... IT *IS* BOTAN! THE *BEGGAR DIDN'T LIE!*

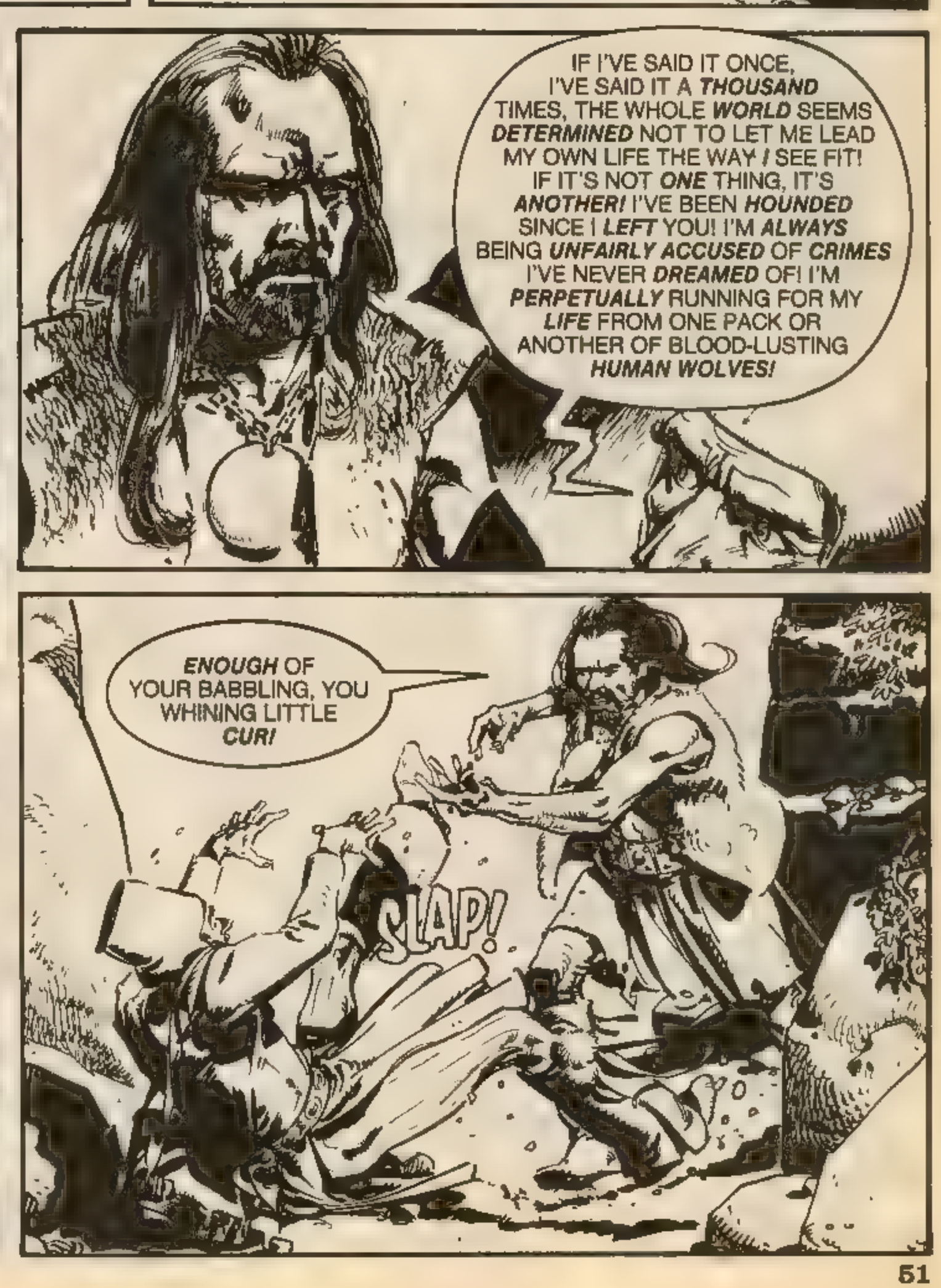
TAKE HIS BODY *DOWN!* WE MUSTN'T ALLOW THE *CARRION-EATERS* TO *FURTHER DEFILE* OUR BROTHER'S *FLESH!*

HA HA! SAFE AT *LAST!* NO ONE WILL *EVER* THINK TO LOOK FOR ME *HERE*–!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF *KHOST*–!?
N-NOOO! P-PLEASE! I...I DIDN'T *MEAN* TO *RUN!*
DON'T *HURT* ME!

IT'LL *BE*–! IT...IT'S NOT *POSSIBLE! HAGGARTH!*
YOU?! NOT *YOU* AGAIN, YOU SLUG BRAINED *WITLING!* WILL I *NEVER* BE *FREE* OF YOU?
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN *DOING* ...*FOLLOWING* ME, LITTLE WORM?

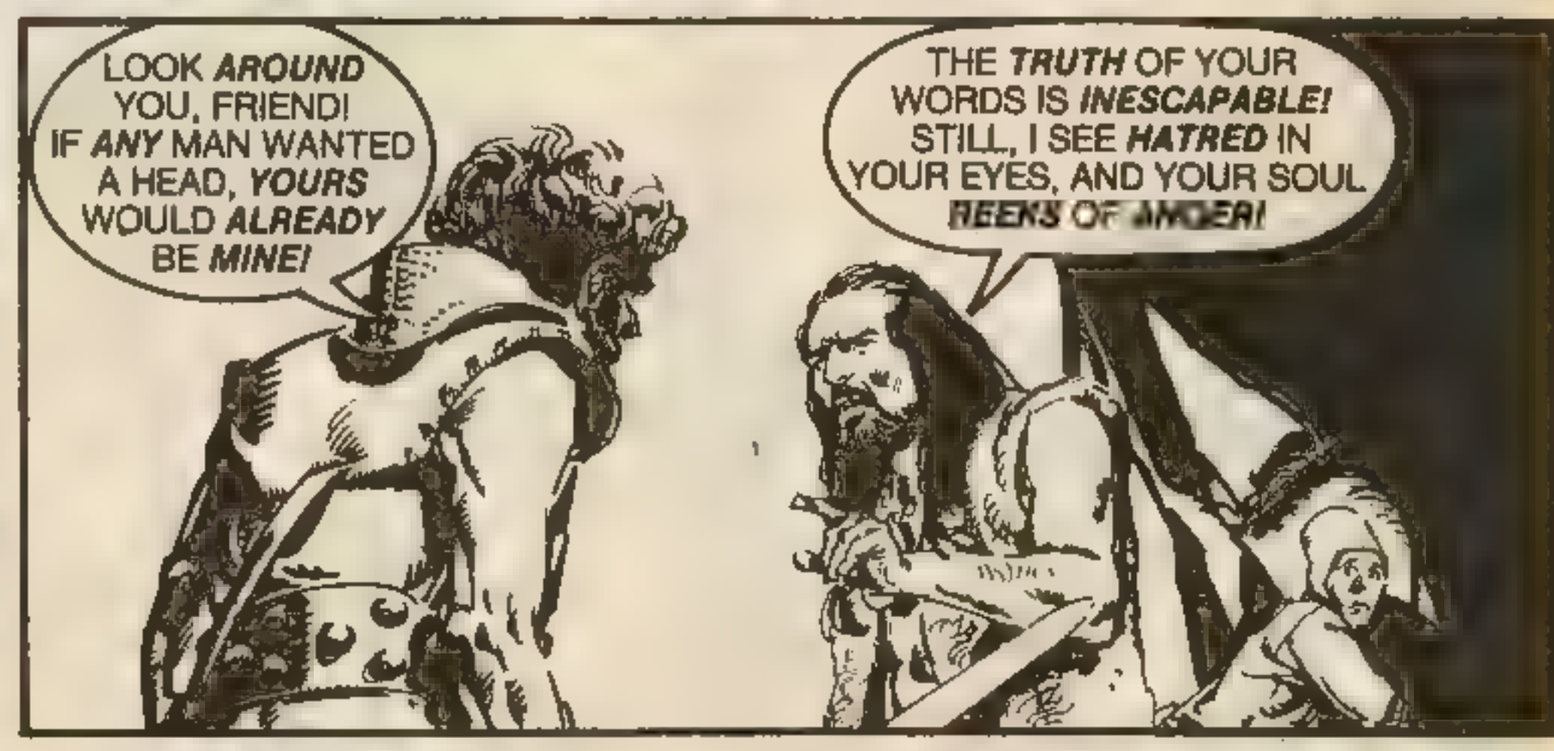
N-NO... HAGGARTH...! I *SWEAR!* THE ...THE LAST TIME I SAW *YOU*, W-WAS RIGHT AFTER I...I HAD THAT AWFUL *DREAM! REMEMBER?!"*
IF YOU'LL ONLY LET ME FEEL THE *GROUND* BENEATH MY *FEET* AGAIN, I THINK I CAN *EXPLAIN!*

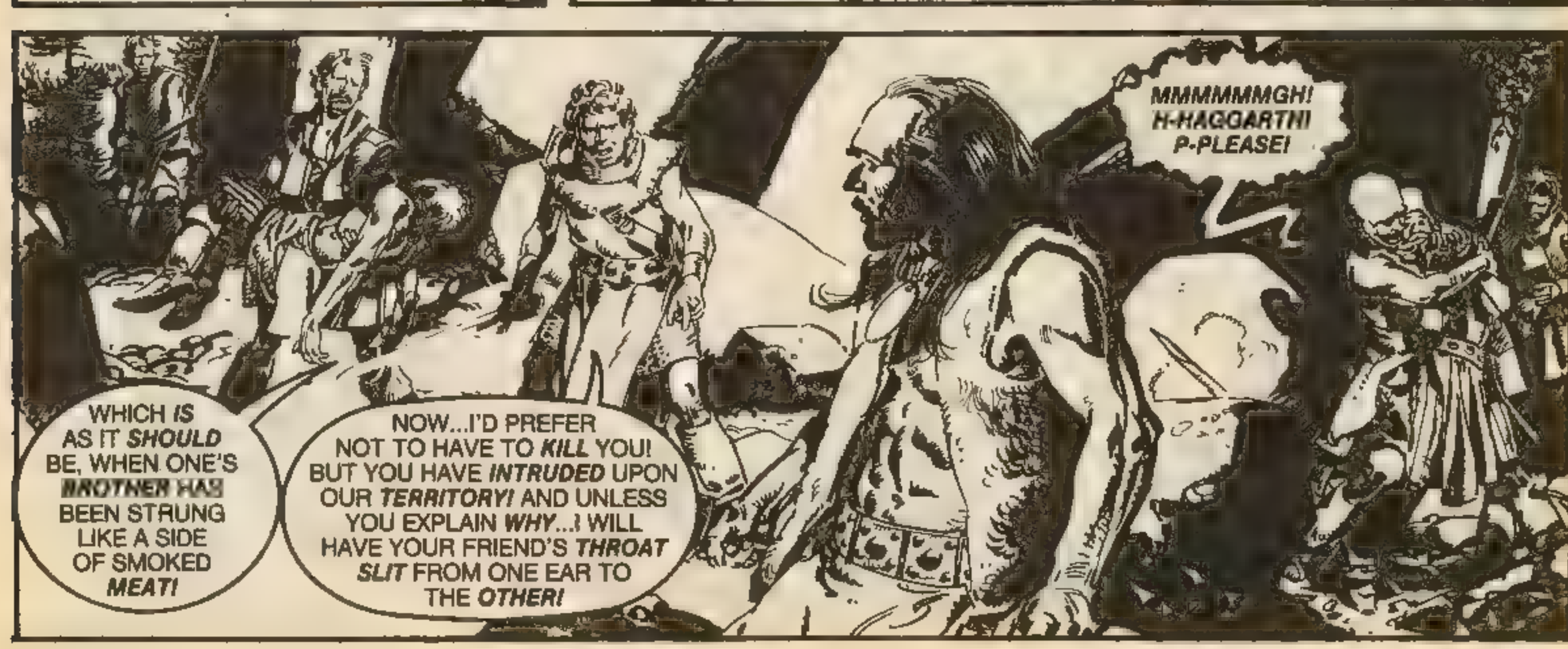

IF I'VE SAID IT ONCE, I'VE SAID IT A *THOUSAND* TIMES, THE WHOLE *WORLD* SEEMS *DETERMINED* NOT TO LET ME LEAD MY OWN LIFE THE WAY *I* SEE FIT! IF IT'S NOT *ONE* THING, IT'S *ANOTHER!* I'VE BEEN *HOUNDED* SINCE I *LEFT* YOU! I'M *ALWAYS* BEING *UNFAIRLY ACCUSED* OF *CRIMES* I'VE NEVER *DREAMED* OF! I'M *PERPETUALLY* RUNNING FOR MY *LIFE* FROM ONE PACK OR ANOTHER OF BLOOD-LUSTING *HUMAN WOLVES!*
ENOUGH OF YOUR BABBLING, YOU WHINING LITTLE *CUR!*
SLAP!

I WANT ANSWERS...NOT YOUR DREARY LIFE'S STORY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU TWO ARE PLOTTING, BUT I ASSURE YOU, YOUR GAME IS FINISHED...AND SO IS MY PATIENCE!

RAISE YOUR WEAPON AGAINST ME, FOOL, AND I PROMISE YOU THAT YOUR ARROGANT STUPIDITY WILL COST YOU YOUR HEAD!


LOOK AROUND YOU, FRIEND! IF ANY MAN WANTED A HEAD, YOURS WOULD ALREADY BE MINE!
THE TRUTH OF YOUR WORDS IS INESCAPABLE! STILL, I SEE HATRED IN YOUR EYES, AND YOUR SOUL REEKS OF ANGER!


WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE, WHEN ONE'S BROTHER HAS BEEN STRUNG LIKE A SIDE OF SMOKED MEAT!
NOW...I'D PREFER NOT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU! BUT YOU HAVE INTRUDED UPON OUR TERRITORY! AND UNLESS YOU EXPLAIN WHY...I WILL HAVE YOUR FRIEND'S THROAT SLIT FROM ONE EAR TO THE OTHER!
MMMMMMGH! H-HAGGARTH! P-PLEASE!

THE TORMENTED WARRIOR ***EXPLAINED*** HIS QUEST TO THE WOODLAND CLANSMEN...HONESTLY, ***EMOTIONALLY!*** HE TOLD THEM HOW HE SOUGHT THE RED SANDS OF ***JAKERITH!*** THE WOODSMEN ***BELIEVED*** HIM, AND AIDED HAGGARTH WITH DIRECTIONS THAT WOULD ***SPEED*** HIS JOURNEY ALONG A ***SAFE*** ROAD!

AND THOUGH HAGGARTH CARED ***LITTLE*** FOR THE SAFETY OF THE BEGGAR, ***ETHAN***...HE, TOO, WAS ***RELEASED*** WITH WISHES FOR HIS WELL-BEING!

YOU WILL ***NEVER*** REGRET HAVING SAVED MY ***SKIN***, HAGGARTH! I ***SWEAR*** IT! MY ***FRIENDSHIP*** IS ***YOURS*** FOR ***ALL TIME!***

I'VE HAD QUITE ***ENOUGH*** OF YOUR ***PROMISES***, LITTLE WORM! I DON'T KNOW ***WHAT*** I MUST HAVE DONE IN MY PRIOR LIVES TO BE ***CURSED*** BY THE GODS WITH ONE SUCH AS ***YOU!***

THIS...THIS ***PATH*** THOSE WOODSMEN SENT US UPON, IS ***NO PATH*** AT ALL!

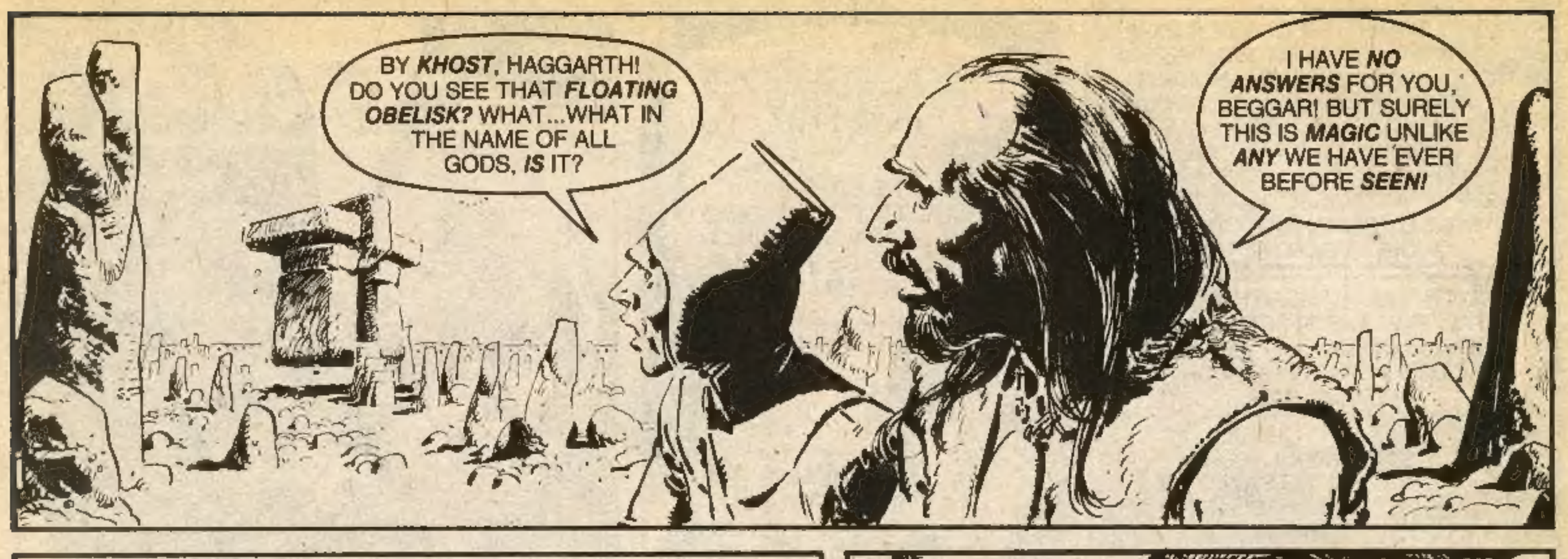
THERE...THERE'S NOTHING BUT ***MOUNTAINS*** HERE...AND A ***DROP*** WHICH ***SURELY*** LEADS STRAIGHT TO ***HELL!***

THERE IS YET TIME FOR YOU TO GO ***BACK***, IF YOU SO DESIRE! I ***ASSURE*** YOU, YOU'LL BE DOING ME A ***FAVOR!***

BUT, MY LORD ...I HAVE ***ALREADY PLEDGED*** MY ETERNAL ***GRATITUDE AND FRIENDSHIP*** TO YOU! WHAT SORT OF ***MAN*** WOULD I BE TO ***RENEGE*** ON THAT SOLEMN ***VOW*** IN THE FACE OF ***MINOR ADVERSITIES?***

THEN AGAIN...I NEVER ***HAVE*** BEEN GOOD AT KEEPING ***VOWS!*** IT MIGHT SERVE ME ***BETTER*** TO TAKE MY WANDERING FEET ***ELSEWHERE!***

I HAVE TO BE ***CRAZIER*** THAN ***THIS*** DEMENTED LOON, TO INSIST ON ***FOLLOWING*** HIM WHEREVER HE ***GOES!***


BY *KHOST*, HAGGARTH! DO YOU SEE THAT *FLOATING OBELISK?* WHAT...WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL GODS, *IS* IT?
I HAVE *NO ANSWERS* FOR YOU, BEGGAR! BUT SURELY THIS IS *MAGIC* UNLIKE *ANY* WE HAVE EVER BEFORE *SEEN!*

NO, MY LORD! I *HAVE* SEEN SORCERY SUCH AS THIS! IN MY *DREAM*...WHEN LAST I MET WITH YOU!* IT ...IT WAS AN *OMEN*, HAGGARTH!
LOOK! IT *COMES* FOR US! WE...WE MUST *FLEE* THIS VILE PLACE, MY LORD, BEFORE THE EVIL THING *OVERTAKES* US!
AN *OMEN* OF ILL TIDINGS AND *EVILS UNMATCHED!*
HOLD, ETHAN! MY *SOUL* TELLS ME THAT THIS IS NO *PERVERSE TABERNACLE*...BUT THE *SANCTUARY* WHEREIN MY *SALVATION* IS TO BE *SECURED!*
SEE EERIE #120

LEAVE ME, NOW, BEGGAR! I MUST GO INSIDE...*ALONE!*
WHATEVER *HAPPENS*, DO *NOT* CROSS THIS *THRESHOLD!* THE FATE *WITHIN*, NO MATTER HOW *GRAND* OR *TERRIBLE*...
...IS *MY* FATE *ALONE!*

AT LAST, *HAGGARTH!* YOU HAVE HEARD MY *CALL!*
TO BE CONTINUED!

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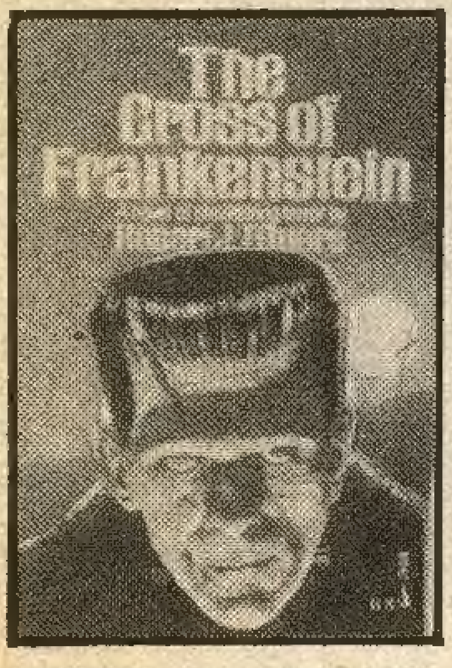

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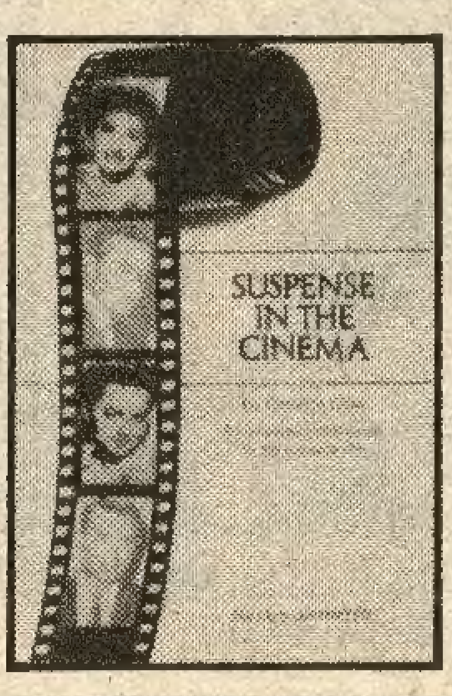

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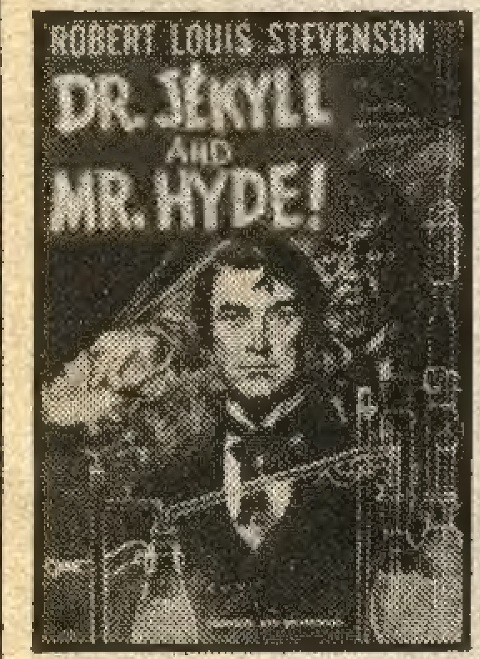

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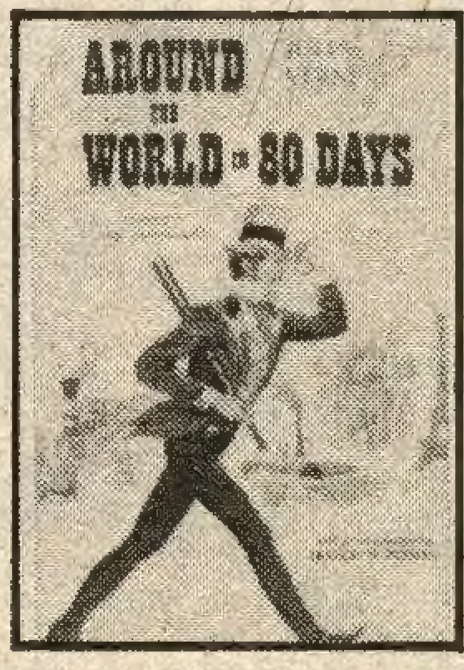

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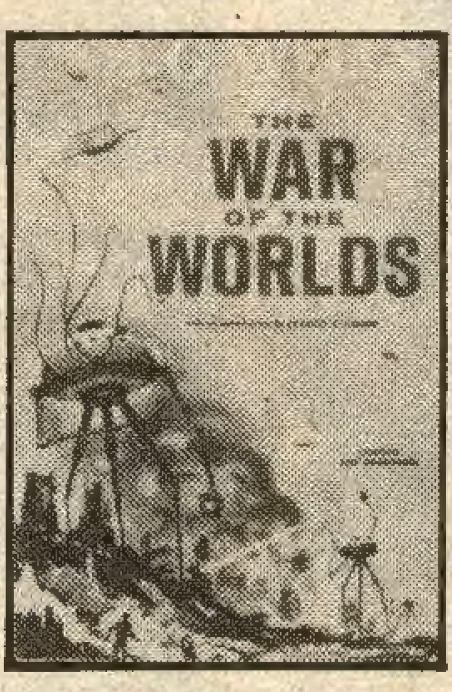

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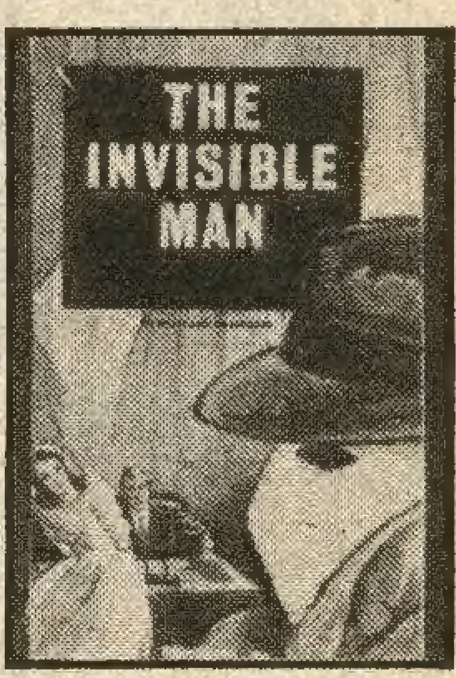

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